



Council of the European Union  
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# THINK TANK REVIEW

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Dear Readers,

Welcome to issue 30 of the Think Tank Review compiled by the EU Council Library\* ([click to share on Twitter](#)). It references papers published in November 2015. As usual, we provide the link to the full text and a short abstract.

In November, we found an abundance of publications focusing on Economic and Financial Affairs, with substantial papers on economic policy coordination in the euro area in the framework of the European Semester, euro area business cycles, the European Banking Union, as well as on the Single Resolution Fund. Moreover, the European Political Strategy Centre also published three articles as part of the [Five Presidents' reports series](#) covering the European Deposit Insurance Scheme, Financing Options for the Single Resolution Fund and Risk Reduction in the Banking Union.

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Under the EU and Member States section, readers will find three articles focusing on the current political dynamics in Spain, including on the role played by the two new parties Podemos ('We can') and Ciudadanos ('Citizens'). In fact, following the Greek elections which brought the Coalition of the Radical Left - Syriza - to power, and the fall of Portugal's new centre-right government after only twelve days when its program was voted down in parliament and replaced by the centre-left Socialists with the support of three leftist parties (the Communist, Green and Left Bloc parties), all eyes are now on Spain and on its general election to be held on 20 December. Other relevant resources from the library were listed in our blog post containing a list of recent books on Spanish politics which are available at the Central Library. Finally, for those with a specific interest in the UK, there are several articles on the relationship between Britain and Europe.

Regarding EU policies, we have found think tanks focusing on three key topics in particular: migration and the refugee crisis, the Digital Economy and the Energy Union. On migration, some think tanks went into detail about the impact of the crisis throughout Europe, including the risk of jeopardising one of the main achievements of the EU, the Schengen area. We also found think tanks looking into the EU-Africa relationship, in particular in the context of the high-level summit in Valletta last November. Concerning the Digital Economy, we noted papers on the Digital Single Market and copyright issues, as well as on the impacts of digital technologies in the way we live, work and govern. On the Energy Union, think tanks proposed, among other things, discussions on the Energy Union project, and on the challenges for the future.

The special focus in this issue is inspired by the recent terrorist attacks in Paris, with papers concentrating on European security after these attacks, on the EU and its fight against terrorism, as well as on so-called Islamic State.

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

The section of *regards croisés* of this month contains an enormous variety of topics. We would like to draw the attention of our readers, in particular, to three articles: i) on Portugal's demographic crisis; ii) on the Holy See in international politics; and iii) on Greek-German relations in times of crisis.

We publish this issue of the TTR slightly before the beginning of the European Council. It is worth mentioning that its content can be read in parallel with its [agenda](#), which denotes that academic discussion and research is increasingly interested in and linked to core issues on the European agenda.

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

The next Review will be out in January 2016, with papers published in December 2015.

<p>For readers from outside the General Secretariat, the Central Library is in the Justus Lipsius building, at JL 02 GH, Rue de la Loi 175, 1048 Brussels. It is open to Council officials, staff of other EU institutions and Permanent Representations of Member States. Members of the public may use the library for research purposes.</p>
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## SECTION 1 - EU POLITICS AND INSTITUTIONS

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

*Blocked for good by the threat of treaty change? Perspectives for reform in the European Union*

by Nicolai von Ondarza [@NvOndarza](#)

November 2015

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

The EU faces a fundamental dilemma. On the one hand, pressure to reform its structures is growing. On the other hand, national governments reject any moves that would require a treaty change as politically impossible. Legal options for evading the dilemma and developing the Union by "covert integration" do exist, but these require unanimous political agreement among all the national governments – and would in the medium term require treaty changes to restore transparency and democratic legitimacy.

### Fondation Robert Schuman

*The "Better Regulation" programme: expertise over politics?*

by Charles de Marcilly [@Charles2M](#) and Matthias Touillon [@M\\_Touillon](#)

9 November 2015

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

The "Better Regulation" programme intends to improve the efficiency of the European legislative process via greater transparency and the use of pertinent expertise. Hence a dialectic between democratic legitimacy and legitimacy through efficiency emerges here. This approach illustrates the degree to which the community's institution is torn between the will to open up the decision making process and its technocratic leanings, which result from its organisational nature and also from the institutional power games that are specific to the EU, according to the authors.

### Foundation for European Progressive Studies

*Centripetal forces in Europe: cartography*

by Ania Skrzypek [@Ania\\_Skrzypek](#)

13 November 2015

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

"Europe is in crisis". Indeed, there is hardly any speech delivered today that would not begin or end with that statement. Nobody remembers anymore a situation when there was no crisis in Europe. It became a pertinent feature of speeches on both EU and national levels, as also certainly a state of mind of the Europeans. Crisis is the explanation and the excuse, crisis is the limit and the incentive for action, finally crisis is the only criteria alongside which European project is being perceived, spoken about and evaluated.

### Friends of Europe

*The state of Europe 2015 - Addressing Europe's crises: policy crossroads*

17 November 2015

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

Successive crises have undermined public trust in Europe. Relations among EU Member States, already soured by the long euro-zone debt crisis, have been deeply damaged by disagreements over how to handle the influx of refugees into Europe from Syria and other conflict zones. Public dissatisfaction with the manner that Europe and mainstream national governments are handling the crises are pushing voters into the arms of politicians opposed to the European project from both the nationalist right and the radical left.

## SECTION 2 - ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

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

#### *The regime-switching volatility of euro area business cycles*

by Stéphane Lhuissier

November 2015

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

This report documents time variation in the volatility of euro area business cycles since 1970. It shows that the size of different types of shock oscillates, in a synchronized manner, between two regimes over time, with the high-volatility regime prevailing in the 1970s, sporadically in the 1980s and 1990s, and during the Great Recession. Then, their relative importance remains, however, unchanged across regimes, where neutral technology shocks and marginal efficiency of investment shocks are the dominant sources of business cycle fluctuations; and these investment shocks, which affect the transformation of savings into productive capital, can be interpreted as an indicator of credit conditions.

### LUISS School of European Political Economy

#### *Exit risks and contagion in the euro area*

by Paolo Canofari [@PaoloCanofari](#) and Marcello Messori

5 November 2015

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

This paper aims to assess the possible impact that the depreciation of a common currency can have on the stability of the related monetary union. It shows that, other things being equal, this depreciation reduces the probability of the weakest Member States leaving the monetary union when hit by a specific and negative demand shock, and the probability of other Member States, which belong to the same area but are not directly hit by any shock, deciding to leave due to the contagion effect. The paper also analyses the role played by trade balance elasticity.

#### *'Tightening the knot' - Strengthening fiscal surveillance in EMU during the euro crisis*

by Pierre Schlosser

November 2015

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

One of the key regularities which appeared to hold so far in European integration is that the closer a policy issue lies to the core of state sovereignty, the least likely it is for integration to occur in that domain. This should thus make the study of integration in fiscal policy, undoubtedly a core state power, particularly interesting.

### Centre for European Policy Studies

#### *What caused the eurozone crisis?*

by Richard Baldwin [@BaldwinRE](#) and Daniel Gros

27 November 2015

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

After five years of crisis there are now signs that the eurozone economy is recovering, but it is far from being back to normal. The authors of this paper sound a note of caution: although progress has been made with the Banking Union and new institutions like the European Stability Mechanism, more needs to be done. The eurozone crisis may be in remission now but when interest rates start to rise, or if confidence evaporates again due to global shock, the systemic cracks could reappear at an alarming rate.

*Estimating the bridge financing needs of the Single Resolution Fund: how expensive is it to resolve a bank?*

by Willem Pieter De Groen and Daniel Gros

November 2015

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

This study was originally requested by the European Parliament's Economic and Monetary Affairs Committee. It provides estimates of the potential financing needs of the Single Resolution Fund (SRF), based on the euro area bank resolutions that actually occurred between 2007 and 2014. It finds that the SRF would have been asked to put a total amount of about €72 billion into these failing banks, which is more than the target for the SRF (€55 billion) but less than the amount the SRF could draw on, if the ex-post levies are also taken into account. As this sum would have been required over eight years, the broad conclusion is that bridge financing, in addition to the existing alternative funding, would only have been needed in the early years of the transition.

**European Credit Research Institute / Centre for European Policy Studies**

*Achieving European policy objectives through financial technology*

by Alistair Milne

November 2015

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

This paper argues that 'FinTech' (newly emerging Financial Technologies) can play a crucial role in achieving European policy objectives in the area of financial markets. These notably include increasing access by smaller firms to trade credit and other forms of external finance and completing the banking and capital markets unions. Accomplishing these objectives, however, will require a coordinated European policy response, focused especially on promoting common business processes and the adoption of shared technology and data standards.

**Bruegel**

*Macroprudential supervision: from theory to policy*

by Dirk Schoenmaker and Peter Wierts

November 2015

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

While there is now consensus that financial supervision has to focus on the aggregate (macro-prudential), in addition to the individual (micro-prudential), there is no agreed macro-prudential framework for measuring financial imbalances and applying policies to correct such imbalances. This paper focuses on these two open questions in the so-called time dimension of macro-prudential policy.

*Squaring the cycle: capital flows, financial cycles, and macro-prudential policy in the euro area*

by Silvia Merler [@SMerler](#)

November 2015

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

The financial crisis has prompted a renewed interest in macro-prudential policy as a framework to address the stability of the financial system as a whole, rather than only its individual components. The purpose of this paper is to contribute to the European macro-prudential discussion by establishing empirically the special challenges that the set-up of macro-prudential policy in the euro area needs to confront.

### *The limitations of policy coordination in the euro area under the European Semester*

by Zsolt Darvas [@ZsoltDarvas](#) and Alvaro Leandro

November 2015

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

This paper assesses economic policy coordination in the euro area under the European Semester. Despite the collective decision to create this new system of policy coordination, this paper shows that the European Semester has been rather ineffective.

### *Is globalisation reducing the ability of central banks to control inflation?*

by Grégory Claeys [@gregclaeys](#) and Guntram B. Wolff [@GuntramWolff](#)

November 2015

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

This paper reviews the impact of globalisation on inflation dynamics, and analyses whether and how this affects the ability of central banks to influence inflation.

### *Firmer foundations for a stronger European Banking Union*

by Dirk Schoenmaker

November 2015

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

The idea of Banking Union has been instrumental in arresting the euro sovereign crisis. However the long-term rationale behind Banking Union is related to cross-border banking in the Single Market. This paper argues that to complete Banking Union the lender-of-last-resort and deposit insurance functions should move to the euro-area level, breaking the sovereign-bank loop.

### *Schriftliche Stellungnahme Bundestagsanhörung "Niedrigzinspolitik der EZB"*

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

November 2015

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

Real returns fall globally at least since the early 1980s, also in Germany. The reasons for this are controversial. Monetary policy is not causally responsible for this, but must respond. Inflation rates have declined in the euro area for several years. This could be partly responsible for the worsening of the recession in the euro area. Raising the prime rate in the current circumstances would be detrimental to the economic recovery and would also lead to even lower inflation rates in Germany.

### **Centrum für Europäische Politik (Centre for European Policy)**

#### *A deposit guarantee scheme for the eurozone*

by Bert Van Roosebeke

November 2015

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

The EC was putting forward proposals for a Deposit Guarantee Scheme (DGS) for the EU on 24 November 2015. The author sets out six prerequisites such eurozone DGS should meet.

## European Trade Union Institute

*How to avert the risk of deflation in Europe: rethinking the policy mix and European economic governance*

by Sotiria Theodoropoulou

November 2015

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

This paper discusses the risks of deflation for the European economy. It critically evaluates the European economic governance for not having averted this risk and discusses how a more coordinated approach to both fiscal policy and collective wage bargaining, both aiming at national inflation targets in the context of macroeconomic dialogue, could help stimulate aggregate demand and move the European economy away from the brink of deflation.

## European Policy Centre

*Economic policy coordination in the euro area under the European Semester*

by Fabian Zuleeg [@Fabian Zuleeg](#)

12 November 2015

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

This paper assesses the economic policy coordination process in the euro area under the European Semester, making recommendations on how implementation could be enhanced and what further developments are necessary to improve coordination of economic policies within EMU.

*What role for social investment in the new economic governance of the eurozone?*

by Jan David Schneider and Fabian Zuleeg [@Fabian Zuleeg](#)

10 November 2015

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

The EU, and in particular the eurozone, has been suffering through a period of prolonged economic difficulty, in particular the countries most affected by the euro crisis. While there are some signs of recovery, growth rates remain too low, in line with low growth rates in the pre-crisis period. This not only affects the creation of jobs, with unemployment rates remaining far too high in many countries, but also the consolidation of public finances.

## Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (Friedrich Ebert Foundation)

*Reform der EU-Finanzpolitik : die goldene Regel für öffentliche Investitionen*

by Achim Truger

November 2015

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

The economic situation in the euro area remains fragile. Another problem is the sharp fall in public investment, especially in the crisis countries of the periphery. An important reform option would be to implement the Golden Rule for public investment at European level.

*Schadet eine ungleiche Einkommensverteilung der Wirtschaft?*

by Till van Treeck

November 2015

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

Recent research findings indicate a negative relationship between economic inequality and macroeconomic development. High income inequality may weaken the growth potential if it leads to lower spending on education. On the demand side, it can have a destabilizing effect if private

consumption is increasingly based on debt. In Germany, these findings should be considered more in politics and science.

### **Peterson Institute for International Economics**

*Inflation and activity: two explorations and their monetary policy implications*

by Olivier Blanchard, Eugenio Cerutti and Lawrence Summers

November 2015

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

This paper explores two issues triggered by the global financial crisis. First, in most advanced countries, output remains far below the prerecession trend, suggesting hysteresis. Second, while inflation has decreased, it has decreased less than anticipated, suggesting a breakdown of the relation between inflation and activity. The paper concludes with implications for monetary policy.

### **European Centre for International Political Economy**

*Building value: the role of trademarks for economic development*

by Fredrik Erixon [@FredrikErixon](#) and Maria Salfi [@MariaSalfi](#)

November 2015

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

Investment in brands and intangibles has seen an increase in the last fifteen years, especially in the EU and the US. The US is a pioneer when we talk about investment in brands, whereas the EU is still investing a higher share of GDP in tangible assets. Differences within the EU are also significant. Size seems to matter. Larger economies usually invest less in brands, whereas relatively smaller economies invest more. Moreover, smaller economies tend to "spend" more on branding compared to bigger ones. However, on average, the economies taken in as sample in this paper show that they correlate positively with investment in brands.

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

*Euro money market trading during times of crisis*

by Falko Fecht and Stefan Reitz

November 2015

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

This paper uses the order book for 2007 and 2008 of a key Euro area market maker in the unsecured money market to estimate a stylized pricing model which explicitly accounts for the over-the-counter structure and the unsecured nature of these transactions. The empirical results suggest that the market maker learns from order flow to update her beliefs about the fundamental value of the overnight rate, but this information aggregation via order flow was increasingly hampered as the crisis unfolded. In addition, order size was also used to infer the unobservable component of a counterparty's credit risk.

*On the role of market makers for money market liquidity and tensions*

by Falko Fecht, Stefan Reitz and Patrick Weber

November 2015

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

This paper analyses the trading book of a key market maker in the European unsecured money market and studies the extent to which liquidity risks accumulated by this market maker affect his pricing of liquidity and the bid/ask spread he quotes on unsecured borrowing and lending. The paper finds that the larger the funding liquidity risk assumed by the market maker is, the higher the market price for liquidity. Furthermore, his bid/ask spread and the sensitivity of his bid/ask spread to the maturity of the transaction increases as his assumed liquidity risk rises.

## SECTION 3 - EU MEMBER STATES

### GERMANY

#### **PolSKI Instytut Spraw Międzynarodowych (Polish Institute of International Affairs)**

*Germany's marriage to austerity: little chance of a quick divorce*

by Sebastian Plóciennik [@SebPloc](#)

18 November 2015

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

The German government's belief that the best recipe for return to growth in the euro area is a combination of budget cuts and reductions in wages is one that is faced with constant, if not rising scepticism in Europe. However, hopes that Berlin will drop its austerity approach should be kept in check. The country's economic culture, doctrine, form of capitalism, as well as economic interests all speak to the policy's durability than its quick departure.

#### **NewClimate Institute / Stiftung Mercator**

*How much more could Germany achieve through non-state action? Quantifying the impact of subnational and international cooperative initiatives on the future greenhouse gas emissions of Germany*

by Niklas Höhne [@niklashoehne](#), Sebastian Sterl and Hanna Fekete [@HannaFekete](#)

November 2015

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

The aim of this study is to quantify the potential impact of a selected number of actions by non-state actors and partnerships on Germany's GHG emissions. The authors focus chiefly on the impact of such initiatives on the 2020 emissions gap, although their analysis also extends to longer-term targets (2030 to 2050) wherever such pledges exist.

#### **Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (Friedrich Ebert Foundation)**

*Sol, água, vento : o desenvolvimento da transição energética na Alemanha*

by Franz-Josef Brüggemeier

November 2015

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

This study, focusing on the German experience, is intended to offer guidance, showing the various positions, concerns and options currently related with the energy transition. The paper offers a quite detailed overview of past energy transitions, starting with the one, which occurred about 200 years ago during the industrialisation period. Finally, the author concentrates on the objectives of the current energy transition which can be summarized as follows: rejection of nuclear energy, replacement of fuel fossil by renewable energy and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

*Diskriminierungsschutz weiterentwickeln: Argumente für eine Novellierung des Allgemeinen Gleichbehandlungsgesetzes*

by Vera Egenberger

November 2015

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

Through the development of national legislation since 2003, great progress has been achieved for promoting equal treatment in the EU. However, it is increasingly clear that legal action is only part of the overall task of preventing discrimination, and that countries that take the protection against discrimination seriously are increasingly going to on not to wait until it happens. The results

presented in this report, show the different approaches, proposals and actions that exist in this field. German authorities would have plenty of scope to take action too.

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

#### *Fusionen und Übernahmen in der deutschen Industrie – Auf dem Weg zur Industrie 4.0?*

by Vera Demary and Matthias Diermeier

26 November 2015

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

The merging of companies contributes enormously to the dynamics of the corporate landscape and is normally coupled to the business cycle. Since the financial crisis of 2009, however, mergers and acquisitions involving German companies have become uncoupled from the state of the economy. Additionally, in the German economy as a whole there is a perceptible trend towards diversifying by merging with firms in other sectors. By contrast, the data for the most important industries suggest that in recent years companies have preferred to consolidate, with comparatively few mergers with, or acquisitions of, companies outside the sector. In view of this, the hypothesis that manufacturing firms are increasingly acquiring the knowledge necessary for the development and implementation of industry 4.0 applications by merging with, or taking over, IT companies cannot be confirmed. Rather, the IT sector is itself going through a period of consolidation.

#### *Moderate Schlagzahl im Fahrwasser der schwächeren Weltwirtschaft*

by Michael Grömling

23 November 2015

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

Germany's economic adjustment burdens have increased considerably in the course of 2015. Coping with a more slowly expanding world economy and with the uncertainties caused by the influx of refugees requires considerable flexibility. The author expects only moderate increases in exports but a significant boost to growth from both private and public consumption. Investment activity, however, remains only moderate. There has so far been no sign of a fully-developed economic cycle. The number of both employed and unemployed persons will rise next year. Despite additional public spending caused by the inflow of refugees, a public sector deficit can be avoided.

### **Institut français des relations internationales**

#### *Islam, judaïsme et identité nationale en Allemagne : défis et nouvelles perspectives*

by Nele Wissmann [@NeleWissmann](#)

November 2015

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

The present analysis links the debate on German national identity to, on the one hand, the revival of Judaism, which was a deliberate political choice, and, on the other, to the expansion of Islam, which, conversely, was not anticipated. The article explains how Judaism was able to revive in Germany after 1945, and how Islam has become the third largest religion in the country, in number of believers. Secondly, the analysis focuses on the increasingly close relations between these two religious communities and the Federal State, from both a qualitative and quantitative point of view. Finally, the issue of anti-Semitism and Islamophobia in current German society is addressed, as well as interreligious dialogue between Judaism and Islam, and the evolution of Jewish and Muslim identities in Germany.

## SPAIN

### Fondation Robert Schuman

#### *Outlook at the next Spanish general elections*

by Angel Sanchez Navarro

30 November 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (6 p.) and in [French](#) (7 p.)

On 20th December next, the Spanish will be called to ballot. Four years before, the electoral victory of the Partido Popular after the general elections on 20th November 2011 took place. It does seem appropriate therefore to make a balance, recalling the context and the developments of the past four years in some especially important areas, thus attempting to provide the reader with a certain perspective of some issues which may condition the upcoming elections.

#### *Uncertainty reigns just one month before the parliamentary elections in Spain*

by Corinne Deloy

23 November 2015

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

On 20th December next, the Spanish will be renewing the two chambers of parliament (Congress of Deputies and the Senate). Just one month before the election the People's Party of outgoing Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy is in the lead but it seems that it will not win the absolute majority.

### Fundación Alternativas

#### *¿Qué pueden cambiar Podemos y Ciudadanos en el sistema de partidos?*

by María Ramos and Pablo Simón

26 November 2015

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

In Spain, the 2015 regional elections have broken the absolute majorities and now all new governments are in minority or in coalition. Those results point to increased volatility and electoral fragmentation at national level and to a major realignment in party support, with substantial transfers of votes. As it has happened at regional level, it seems that emerging parties will be key to the formation of the government after the 20 December.

### Ulkopoliittinen instituutti (Finnish Institute of International Affairs)

#### *The subtle Spanish revolution - New parties change the game, but does Catalonia still want to play?*

by Teemu Sinkkonen

November 2015

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

This briefing paper analyses the current dynamics in Spain and assesses the volatile future of the country before the crucial elections in December. Since there are two new parties with significant national ambitions (on the left Podemos and on the right Ciudadanos), the political landscape is changing rapidly. At the same time as the political flux, the Spanish economy is showing signs of recovery. According to the author, there is but one major shadow blighting the promising recovery of Spain: the Catalan independence project, which could bring considerable insecurity to Spain and Catalonia, and could easily polarize the political landscape.

## Real Instituto Elcano (Elcano Royal Institute)

### *Presupuestos de defensa en España: mitos y recién llegados*

by Antonio Fonfría

13 November 2015

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

Defence budgets experience a structural tension between its purpose, the threats and risks that they protect, and the political and social perception of that need, which requires to justify not only its total amount but also its allocation criteria.

## UNITED KINGDOM

### Policy Network

#### *The risk of Brexit*

by Roger Liddle [@liddlro](#)

5 November 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (151 p.)

This is a critical time for the relationship between Britain and Europe, as politicians debate the crisis facing the EU and Britain's role within it. This paper assesses the impact of a series of miscalculated gambles by David Cameron and his forebears that leaves Britain teetering on the edge of an exit from the EU.

#### *What would 'out' look like?*

by Pat McFadden and Andy Tarrant

4 November 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (66 p.)

Advocates for Brexit have suggested a range of alternative options for the UK instead of EU membership. This report rigorously examines four of the most widely canvassed alternatives: the Norwegian option, the Swiss option, relying on WTO trading rules alone, and a special preferential UK deal. The analysis shows that the arguments advanced for how Britain could do better outside the EU are based on false premises which do not stand up to close scrutiny. It tests a series of common claims about the economic consequences of leaving the EU and different scenarios in which Britain would have to negotiate trading relations on its own with Europe and the rest of the world.

### European Council on Foreign Relations

#### *Brexit to nowhere: the foreign policy consequences of "Out"*

by Nick Witney

5 November 2015

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

This paper maintains Brexit would have major foreign policy consequences. Brexit would diminish both Britain and the EU on the world stage, encouraging anti-democratic forces across the continent and beyond. Furthermore, it would likely trigger Scottish independence and violence in Northern Ireland. Brexit would handicap Britain's response to the migrant crisis, making border control more difficult. And only by working within the EU can Britain hope to address the crisis at its roots.

## **Institute of Economic Affairs**

*Federal Britain: the case for decentralisation*

by Philip Booth

November 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (128 p.)

This paper proposes that the UK develop a federal structure of government with just a small number of functions being determined at a UK level. At the same time, the paper calls for further significant decentralisation to national and local government. Decentralising government would allow greater experimentation, better matching of services to local preferences and greater competition between providers of government-funded services.

## **Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (Friedrich Ebert Foundation)**

*Brexit - was für die EU und Großbritannien auf dem Spiel steht*

by Roger Liddle [@liddlro](#) and Florian Ranft [@FloRanft](#)

November 2015

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

David Cameron plans to hold a referendum on the fate of Britain in the EU for the end of 2017. In this difficult period, many EU partners perceive the British question as an unwelcome interference. Economic divergences, growing social and political tensions and the increasing populism in many Member States pose risks. A positive outcome of the referendum will depend largely on the good will of the UK partners. Currently it looks that other EU countries want to keep the UK in the EU, but not at any price.

## **Institut français des relations internationales**

*Royaume-Uni/Union européenne : négociations à 28, pas à 27 contre un*

by Vivien Pertusot [@VPertusot](#)

12 November 2015

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

David Cameron revealed his requests for renegotiation. It is wrong to see a negotiation to 27 against one, as so often presented. British claims could have a strong impact on European policies. Which opens is a European trading, where the concessions to the British play in the minds as much as the ramifications of the decisions taken at the political and institutional functioning of the EU.

## **Istituto Affari Internazionali**

*Italy and the renegotiation of the UK's EU membership*

by Riccardo Alcaro

24 November 2015

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

British Prime Minister David Cameron has pledged to campaign for the UK to stay in the EU in the incoming in-or-out referendum on the UK's EU membership, but only if London succeeds in recalibrating its relationship with the Union. As the EU's fourth largest country, Italy will play a crucial role in the negotiation. The challenge for Rome is to balance its long-standing commitment to strengthening European integration with the interest in keeping a country the size and influence of the UK in the EU.

## Jacques Delors Institute - Berlin

### *UK-Forderungen: Mission impossible?*

by Valentin Kreiling [@tineurope](#), Nicole Koenig [@Nic Koenig](#) and Paul-Jasper Dittrich [@paul2jasper](#)  
24 November 2015  
Link to the article in [German](#) (19 p.)

Before the referendum on the fate of the UK in the EU, David Cameron wants to negotiate the new conditions of membership of his country and reform the EU. In a letter to President Donald Tusk he officially opened part of the negotiations with five key demands. This paper argues that for all five areas European compromise can be found, without the need to come to a proper treaty amendment procedure. Negotiations are therefore not "mission impossible".

## Policy Exchange

### *Governing power: improving the administration of the energy industry in Great Britain*

by Richard Howard [@RichardHowardPX](#)  
10 November 2015  
Link to the article in [English](#) (31 p.)

This report highlights the complex network of organisations that govern energy policy, regulations and rules. The paper finds there are over 30 bodies responsible for the delivery of energy policy, the management of industry codes of practice and the operation of the energy system. The cost of these organisations is estimated at over £600 million a year.

### *Budgeting for balance: how hard is this going to be?*

by Jonathan Dupont [@jondupont](#)  
24 November 2015  
Link to the article in [English](#) (62 p.)

Together, a decade of loose public spending, fiscal stimulus and the aftermath of the financial crisis left Britain with the highest deficit in its post war history at 10.2% of GDP. Even half a decade later, that deficit is only half closed, and remains high internationally. Given that much of the damage to the UK economy is expected to be permanent, there was little choice but to embark on an equally historically large fiscal consolidation to bring the budget back into balance.

## UK Foreign and Security Policy Working Group / Chatham House - The Royal Institute of International Affairs

### *Strengthening Britain's voice in the world*

November 2015  
Link to the article in [English](#) (18 p.)

As the government completes a new Strategic Defence and Security Review (SDSR), the UK faces a far more unstable world than when the last SDSR was published in 2010. At the same time, there is a widespread concern that the UK is disengaged from the search for solutions in these areas. The UK cannot afford to be passive. Authors make suggestions for areas where the UK can do more in terms of leadership, investment and commitment. In the long term, the UK should be: an innovative problem-solver, a vigorous multilateralist and a pragmatic European player.

## VISEGRAD GROUP

### Central European Policy Institute

*Trends of Visegrad foreign policy 2015*

by Vít Dostál [@VitDostal](#)

November 2015

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

With the EU migration crisis at the forefront, the foreign policies of the Visegrad countries have become increasingly relevant for the entire EU. The interest towards the Slovak foreign policy priorities is rising just as the country prepares for its upcoming Presidency in the Council of the EU in the second half of 2016. A better understanding and awareness of the foreign policy of the Visegrad countries will help the Visegrad group identify potential areas of cooperation. It will also help the EU build a better coordinated common foreign policy.

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

*Assessing the importance of external factors on the perception and development of V4 policies*

by Martin Michelot [@polyesterfreak](#)

25 November 2015

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

The Ukraine crisis has highlighted the consequences of regional dissensions on the efficient and speedy functioning of multilateral institutions. However, the dual crisis in Europe's East and South is an opportunity for the V4 to enhance its usefulness to NATO and the EU and its influence in these institutions, if it showcases a minimal level of unity.

## SECTION 4 - EU POLICIES

### JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS

#### Centre for European Policy Studies

*Safe harbour or into the storm? EU-US data transfers after the Schrems judgment*

by Sergio Carrera and Elspeth Guild

November 2015

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

In its recent Schrems judgment the Luxembourg Court annulled Commission Decision 2000/520 according to which US data protection rules are sufficient to satisfy EU privacy rules regarding EU-US transfers of personal data, otherwise known as the 'Safe Harbour' framework. In this paper the authors find that it sends a strong message to EU and US policy-makers about the need to ensure clear rules governing data transfers. Any future arrangement for the transatlantic transfer of data will therefore need to be firmly anchored in a framework of protection commensurate with the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights and the EU's data protection architecture.

### MIGRATION AND REFUGEE CRISIS

#### Barcelona Centre for International Affairs

*Europe and the refugee crisis: 10 collateral effects*

by Pol Morillas [@polmorillas](#), Elena Sánchez-Montijano and Eduard Soler [@solerlecha](#) (coords.)

November 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (35 p.) and in [Spanish](#) (41 p.)

2015 will go down as the year Europe felt a tragedy of global dimensions for itself. Other parts of the world have been facing what is now known as the "refugee crisis" for much longer and with much greater intensity. The impact of the crisis will be felt strongly throughout Europe, not just in a handful of countries, and it will continue to affect the European construction project as a whole, not just some of its policies. In the papers brought together in this monograph, we identify ten collateral effects that are already being felt.

#### Ústav mezinárodních vztahů Praha (Institute of International Relations Prague)

*The EU and the refugees: the way forward*

by Petr Kratochvíl, Vít Beneš, Benjamin Tallis [@bctallis](#) and Michal Šimečka

27 November 2015

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

This paper considers that the refugee crisis can become – in spite of the underlying tragedy – a moment of glory for the EU. If the EU manages to reform its outdated migration and asylum policies, offering the war refugees a friendly welcome, it will prove that the fears of its weakness are exaggerated and the rumours about its erosion are unfounded. Authors claim war refugees – and even economic migrants – are not a threat; they are an opportunity for the EU to prove that it still stands firm on the principles of peace, solidarity and openness, on which it had been originally built.

## European Political Strategy Centre

*The EU and Africa: Valletta and beyond*

11 November 2015

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

The Valletta summit will build on existing EU-Africa cooperation but will reflect a more comprehensive political approach. The EU's efforts to strengthen the cooperation on migration with African partners take place against the background of fundamental changes on Europe's 'twin continent', with some 900 million citizens expected to be below the age of 20 in 2030. Economic growth in Africa is leading to more assertive positions towards European and American partners as African countries are diversifying their business relations, especially with China and India.

## Real Instituto Elcano (Elcano Royal Institute)

*La crisis de los refugiados y la respuesta europea*

by Carmen González Enríquez

18 November 2015

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

The refugee crisis is jeopardizing one of the main achievements of the EU, the Schengen area. To address it, it is necessary to strengthen external controls, restore confidence among Member States and to advance in the European Asylum System by unifying the criteria for granting assistance and support offered to refugees.

## Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies - European University Institute

*Transnational mobility and migrant integration*

by Anna Triandafyllidou, Ruby Gropas and Irina Isaakyan

November 2015

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

Today in the EU, there are more than 30 million third-country nationals. These non-naturalized foreigners often find themselves on the move, having families and socio-economic relations and engaging in economic and political activities in more than one country. It is a challenging task for experts and policy-makers to understand the dynamic and complex relationship between integration and transnational mobility and to initiate changes in migration-, (re)integration- and diaspora policies.

## Chatham House - The Royal Institute of International Affairs

*Heat, light and power for refugees. Saving lives, reducing costs*

by Glada Lahn and Owen Grafham [@ografham](#)

November 2015

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

Today displacement of people as a result of conflict represents an unprecedented global challenge. The gap between the needs of growing numbers of displaced people and the resources and political will to meet their needs is widening. Energy is one critical area which illustrates this problem but also offers potential for practical redress. Drawing on open-source data, interviews and field surveys, this report offers the first global overview of the state of energy use among almost 60 million people forcibly displaced by conflict. It considers the mounting financial and human costs of their current methods of obtaining energy, and assesses the economic, environmental and human case for change.

## Migration Policy Institute

*Rethinking emigration: turning challenges into opportunities*

by Demetrios G. Papademetriou

November 2015

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

While European countries struggle to manage the recent influx of refugees and migrants, a quieter trend has been occurring: large numbers of talented residents are leaving. In the fallout from the global economic crisis, Greece, Italy, Portugal, and Spain have in some ways returned to their earlier roles as significant countries of emigration. This paper outlines a series of guiding principles to help governments manage emigration effectively, which emphasize the importance of long-term structural reforms, diaspora engagement, and cooperation with destination countries on qualifications recognition.

## European Union Institute for Security Studies

*Migration: the new 'push' and 'pull' dynamics*

by Roderick Parkes [@RoderickParkes](#)

13 November 2015

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

If global order is to be maintained, states must agree on who and what may cross national borders, and how. The EU and US have structured global relations around the liberal flow of trade and capital, and the restriction of migration. But the current spike in disorderly migration is allowing emerging powers – and migrants themselves – to challenge and change the global order.

## Deutsches Institut für Wirtschaftsforschung (German Institute for Economic Research)

*Integrating refugees: a long-term, worthwhile investment*

by Marcel Fratzscher [@MFratzscher](#) and Simon Junker

12 November 2015

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

The debate about the massive influx of refugees into Germany often focuses solely on the short-term costs. But while these expenditures are bound to be substantial in the coming years, the discussion neglects the long-term economic potential of a successful integration of refugees—often, young people—which can transform the initial expenditure into a worthwhile investment. Even if many of the refugees' labor market prospects may be relatively poor for the first few years due to a lack of qualifications, and those who do find employment may be less productive than the average German worker, the long-term gains are likely to exceed the costs.

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

*La salute dei richiedenti asilo e dei minori stranieri non accompagnati: quali bisogni e quali tutele*

by Veronica Merotta

November 2015

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

The paper describes problems and issues in migrants' health condition in Italy. It focuses on migrants' health necessity on juridical side and it claims that caring of their health is strictly related to preserve their fundamental rights.

## **Centar za demokratiju i ljudska prava (Center for Democracy and Human Rights)**

### *Guidebook on treating migrants*

by Miroslava Jelačić

November 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (39 p.) and in [Montenegrin](#) (38 p.)

This guidebook was intended as an instrument which is to offer basic information to the individuals who establish the first contact with migrants and take part in offering them assistance and, in the context of the increased influx of migrants into the territory of the Republic of Montenegro, to contribute to the understanding of the complexity of the treatment of migrants being brought by the migration flow.

## **Slovenská spoločnosť pre zahraničnú politiku (Slovak Foreign Policy Association)**

### *Current migration trends in V4 countries: focus on migration from Ukraine*

by Vladimír Benč

30 November 2015

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

The spread of conflicts in a wide range of countries in the Middle East, Sub-Saharan Africa and unfortunately also in neighbouring countries (such as Ukraine) are producing a huge increase in mixed migration flows, which in turn affects the stability of Europe overall. Migration recently became one of the main problems and a key policy priority for the whole EU. And it is clear that there is a need for a radical change in European policies on mobility.

## **Institut français des relations internationales**

### *La politique migratoire allemande : un chantier permanent*

by Steffen Angenendt

November 2015

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

Although Germany is currently one of the main immigration countries, it has been slow to develop a long-term migration policy that comprehensively meets the diverse challenges that the country faces. Consequently Germany faces a triple challenge. In the first place, it has to contribute to the resolution of the current humanitarian catastrophes on a scale that reflects its status as a great political and economic power. Secondly, it must elaborate and implement an efficient and sustainable migration policy. Finally, the Federal Republic needs to reinforce its efforts to integrate migrants – whether they are new arrivals or have been long settled in the country.

## **Polski Instytut Spraw Międzynarodowych (Polish Institute of International Affairs)**

### *Niekontrolowane migracje do Unii Europejskiej – implikacje dla Polski*

by Patrycja Sasnal

30 November 2015

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

In Poland, it is the first time since the transition in 1989 that migration and refugee policy has become a topic of political and public debate. Having joined the EU and North-Atlantic structures not only has Poland made a civilizational leap but also ensured stability and welfare for the society. By doing so it has become part of the richer "North", which for more than half a century now has been attracting people from the "South". Even if today Poland is not a destination of mass migration, with a high degree of probability the richer the country gets the more foreigners it will attract: this process is new and unfamiliar, so it can bring both risks and opportunities.

## European Council on Foreign Relations

*Libya's migrant-smuggling highway: lessons for Europe*

by Mattia Toaldo [@mattiatoaldo](#)

10 November 2015

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

Libya has now become a highway for migrant smuggling from sub-Saharan Africa and shows that if EU policy focuses merely on "keeping migrants out", the net result will be more entrenched people smuggling networks, and more migrants living underground in Europe. Europe should take a different approach to migration through Libya by working on a new economic model for border communities who make their living from smuggling; engaging with local authorities; monitoring the treatment of migrants within the country; and extending law enforcement operations to the Sahara - doing all of the above even in the absence of a peace agreement.

## Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (Friedrich Ebert Foundation)

*Migratory and refugee movements in and from the Horn of Africa*

by Günter Schröder

November 2015

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

The Horn of Africa has been an epicentre of immense migratory and refugee movements. These migrations primarily take place in the form of refugee and illegal migration movements. Motives to leave due to warfare, repression and persecution have intermingled with economic motives in such a complex manner in these refugee and migratory movements since the early 1960s that it is no longer possible to draw a clear line separating motives for migration. No stable solution that could eliminate the causes of exodus and migration in the countries in the Horn is on the horizon. It is highly likely that refugee and migratory movements will if anything tend to intensify in the coming years.

*Making migration beneficial to Europe and Africa*

November 2015

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

Migration is increasingly becoming a hot topic for Africa-Europe engagement, particularly in the light of increased irregular migration to Europe from Africa in the recent years. Despite having started several processes to jointly deal with migration, more consistently since 2007, there are still great differences in understanding of the issue, priorities and how to best address challenges and opportunities of migration between Europe and Africa. These differences exist not only between the two continents but they also emerge between countries depending on whether they are countries of origin, transit or recipient.

*Flucht, Schlepperei und Fluchthilfe entlang der West-Balkan Route : Lösungen finden statt Festungen bauen : Hintergrundinformation*

by Andreas Schloenhardt

November 2015

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

The recent movements of refugees in particular through the West Balkan route to Austria and Germany have led to the construction of border fences and to the implementation of the so-called "Fortress Europe" for preventing uncontrolled migration. The article claims the "closure" of Europe put the refugees in great danger whilst EU countries should work also for helping them to arrive in their destination countries. To prevent smuggling and uncontrolled movements of refugees, the authors suggest EU countries should work with UNHCR and embassies for guaranteeing them a safe way to Europe.

## *Zuwanderer unerwünscht: die Flüchtlingsfrage spaltet die polnische Gesellschaft*

by Justyna Seges Frelak  
November 2015  
Link to the article in [German](#) (7 p.)

Poland is a traditional migration country: however, policy-makers claims, it may become sooner a refugees' destination country. Nowadays few migrants chose Poland, however a sustained increase can be expected because of the Ukrainian ones. This new process is arising new issues into Polish political debate, with an increasing number of people asking for a stricter policy towards migration. Besides, the election campaign has led to a radicalization of positions and to an emotional debate about the topic.

## *Jenseits von Lampedusa - Flucht und Migration im Nahen Osten und Nordafrika*

by Felix Eikenberg and Friederike Stolleis (eds.)  
November 2015  
Link to the article in [German](#) (28 p.)

This publication examines how some selected EU and not-EU countries are coping with migration issues. It focuses on Syria neighbouring countries, which received the highest sum of refugees. The situation leads to a high stress in MENA surrounding countries, almost of all because the international support is insufficient. The paper claims the necessity EU fund MENA countries for helping them in coping with the task and for preventing a huge flux of refugees in EU countries.

## TRANSPORT

### **Fondation Robert Schuman**

#### *The airline industry: re-establishing free, fair competition*

by Xavier Lebray [@xlebray](#)  
16 November 2015  
Link to the article in [English](#) (6 p.) and in [French](#) (7 p.)

European airlines are facing an offensive strategy on the part of their State competitors in the countries of the Gulf, which is leading to their demise. The EU has in its possession regulatory tools that it must use to the full but which in all likelihood require completion so that they can rise to the new situation. It must also draw up a global strategy which brings fair competition to the heart of the airline industry of all players who want to enjoy the benefits of the Single European Sky. The European Parliament has turned its attention to the issue by adopting two resolutions on transport and the Aviation Package, which both move in this direction. The European Commission use this work to finalise the "Aviation Package" that it is due to present at the end of 2015.

## DIGITAL ECONOMY

### **Real Instituto Elcano (Elcano Royal Institute)**

#### *El ineludible futuro digital de Europa y las oportunidades que su cultura puede encontrar en él*

by David Márquez Martín de la Leona [@david\\_mml](#)  
19 November 2015  
Link to the article in [Spanish](#) (11 p.)

Technological advances in recent years require a rapid institutional response to change the regulatory framework in which we Europeans relate to each other and we digitally trade.

## Centre for European Policy Studies

### *The implementation, application and effects of the EU Directive on Copyright in the Information Society*

by Andrea Renda [@arendal111](#), Felice Simonelli, Giuseppe Mazziotti, Alberto Bolognini and Giacomo Luchetta

November 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (188 p.)

This study provides an ex-post evaluation of the EU copyright framework as provided by EU Directive 29/2001 on Copyright in the Information Society and related legislation, focusing on four key criteria: effectiveness, efficiency, coherence and relevance. The evaluation finds that the EU copyright framework scores poorly on all four accounts. The wider framework on copyright still generates costs by inhibiting content production, distribution and creation and generating productive, allocative and dynamic inefficiencies. Finally, despite its overall importance and relevance as a domain of legislation in the fields of content and media, the EU copyright framework is outdated in light of technological developments.

### *Digital Single Market in the field of copyright*

by Andrea Renda [@arendal111](#), Felice Simonelli, Giuseppe Mazziotti and Giacomo Luchetta

November 2015

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

This study analysed by EU Directive 29/2001 on Copyright in the Information Society and focuses on two policy problems: i) the absence of a Digital Single Market for creative works; and ii) the increasing tension between the current system of exceptions and limitations and the legal treatment of emerging uses of copyrighted content in the online environment. Without prejudicing a future impact assessment that might focus on more specific and detailed policy options, the analysis suggests that 'more Europe' would be needed in the field of copyright.

## Lisbon Council for Economic Competitiveness and Social Renewal

### *Government of the future: how digital technology will change the way we live, work and govern*

by Sergey Filippov [@FilippovEU](#)

26 November 2015

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

This paper imagines a world where citizens and governments collaborate to "co-create" public services through the use of radically enhanced approaches, such as "government as a platform"-based services and block chain technology. It analyses "best-in-class" e-government initiatives in an array of countries and speculates on how Europe would look if today's best practices were broadly disseminated and embraced at scale.

## Terra nova

### *La richesse des nations après la révolution numérique*

by Nicolas Colin

9 November 2015

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

The paper explores the relevance of the digital economy and it claims it will gradually transform the whole economy and its institutions. Even though digital companies are destroying old jobs and are increasing economic inequality, they are creating new high and low-skilled jobs as well. However, authors argue outdated education curricula made difficult for new companies to find suitable workers. Furthermore, the author indicated industrial law as not fitted to digital companies demands.

## **Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (Friedrich Ebert Foundation)**

*Die digitale Öffentlichkeit Band II : wie das Internet unsere Demokratie verändert*

by Kathrin Voss and Peter Hurrelbrink (eds.)

November 2015

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

The paper analyses how digitalization has changed everyday life and how it affects on the creation of new demands in politics and democracy. Increasing digitalization, the author maintains, leads to an arising popular participation in politics.

*Völkerrecht in Zeiten des Netzes Perspektiven auf den effektiven Schutz von Grund- und Menschenrechten in der Informationsgesellschaft zwischen Völkerrecht, Europarecht und Staatsrecht*

by Matthias C. Kettmann [@MCKettmann](#)

November 2015

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

The aim of the report is to analyse whether an explicit "international law of the network" is necessary to be designed and how this should be. It concludes that it's requested actually: it must be referred, authors claim, to both public and non-governmental activities related to the Internet international standard inventory in order to achieve the demands about liberty and security protection.

## **ENERGY AND EU ENERGY UNION**

### **Centre for European Reform**

*The EU Energy Union: more than the sum of its parts?*

by Dieter Helm [@Dieter\\_Helm](#)

November 2015

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

An Energy Union built around EU-wide gas and electricity networks will help produce cheaper, greener and more secure energy for Europe. The paper proposes three steps to the development of the EU Energy Union: that the Commission undertake an assessment of the prize that integration will bring; that it should map out the networks at the European level; and gradually move towards a European system operator.

### **Fondation Robert Schuman**

*Energy Union, a vast, far reaching project*

by Michel Derdevet [@MDerdevet](#)

2 November 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (7 p.) and in [French](#) (9 p.)

A few weeks before COP21 the issues at stake in Europe's energy policy revolve more than ever before around sustainable, reliable, affordable energy for all Europeans, both businesses and citizens alike. The dual economic and ecological challenge facing Europe under energy transition must be seen as industrial policy and competitiveness goals. The vast project of Energy Union is precisely "a historic opportunity" to reshape the foundations of European leadership.

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

*Energy union and EU global strategy: the undefined link*

by Shahrazad Far and Richard Youngs  
November 2015  
Link to the article in [English](#) (66 p.)

The European Energy Union is a political strategy aimed at ensuring communitarian energy transition, security of supply, a fully integrated European energy market and increased energy efficiency. However, the origin and content of the strategy is simultaneously well rooted in the EU's external relations. This report analyses the foreign and security policy implications of the Energy Union. The authors also point out a number of policy recommendations for the forthcoming strategic development of the Energy Union.

*The challenge of completing the EU internal market for natural gas*

by Tim Boersma  
November 2015  
Link to the article in [English](#) (12 p.)

Managing the problem with gas interruptions to several EU countries in Central and Eastern Europe is one of the explicit goals of the European Energy Union. In order to enhance the diversification of energy suppliers, the Energy Union therefore emphasizes the extension of infrastructure and interconnections of pipelines between Member States. In this publication, the author points to the major challenges to the completion of the internal energy market and analyses what role the Energy Union can play in this process.

*Big Brussels is watching you? Enhancing transparency in EU external energy deals*

by Sijbren de Jong  
November 2015  
Link to the article in [English](#) (12 p.)

The European Commission has presented the European Energy Union as an indispensable instrument for the creation of a coherent European energy policy. This includes among other things giving the commission a bigger influence over Member States' energy deals with third countries. In this publication, the author outlines the background to the commission's initiative and analyses the prerequisites for a deeper European integration in the field of energy.

**Terra nova / Instytut Spraw Publicznych (Institute of Public Affairs) / Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (Friedrich Ebert Foundation)**

*New and ambitious or just more of the same? The energy union at a crossroads*

by Christophe Schramm, Antoine Guillou [@antoineguillou](#), Robert Schachtschneider, Philipp Fink, Daniel Scholten and Michel Derdevet  
23 November 2015  
Link to the article in [English](#) (8 p.)

The situation in which Europe's energy policy finds itself today could be described as a crisis. Started about 30 years ago, the so-called internal energy market has run out of steam. Launched with the idea that liberalisation and free markets would increase competitiveness and reduce energy prices, the internal market agenda has suffered as much from national opposition tactics as from its unsuitability to tackle the other challenges of energy policy: securing energy supplies, and building an integrated energy system that effectively as well as substantially reduces CO2 emissions. This has led to increasing doubt about the market's ability to deliver sufficient investments, which are much needed to achieve Europe's energy and climate objectives.

## Overseas Development Institute

*Empty promises: G20 subsidies to oil, gas and coal production*

by Elizabeth Bast [@esbast](#), Alex Doukas [@adoukas](#) and Sam Pickard  
November 2015

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

This research maintains that G20 country governments' support to fossil fuel production marries bad economics with disastrous consequences for climate change. Authors claims governments are propping up the production of oil, gas and coal, much of which cannot be used if the world is to avoid dangerous climate change. The report claims that, by providing subsidies for fossil fuel production, the G20 countries are creating a 'lose-lose' scenario. They are directing large volumes of finance into high-carbon assets that cannot be exploited without catastrophic climate effects. This diverts investment from economic low-carbon alternatives such as solar, wind and hydro-power.

## Oxford Institute for Energy Studies

*A holistic framework for the study of interdependence between electricity and gas sectors*

by Donna Peng and Rahmatallah Poudineh  
9 November 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (88 p.)

The increasing global use of natural gas for power generation has resulted in a period of interdependence between two important energy industries. Understanding of the extended gas-to-power supply chain is important for industry agents, power and gas system operators or integrated utilities, regulators, and government bodies responsible for overall energy policy. This paper acts as a lens through which the combined gas and power supply chains of any given country can be observed and understood. The gas-to-power supply chain of the UK is profiled to illustrate how the framework proposed can be applied to integrate the various dimensions of power and gas industries.

## Deutsches Institut für Wirtschaftsforschung (German Institute for Economic Research)

*Earthquakes in the Netherlands cannot shake the European natural gas market*

by Franziska Holz, Hanna Brauers and Thorsten Roobeek  
25 November 2015

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

Earthquakes in Netherlands has been attributed to the extraction of natural gas from the Groningen field. Popular opposition to natural gas production has led the government to reduce production, consequently. Model calculations based on a reduced production of natural gas show that due to diversified imports effects on the EU natural gas market would be small. Even if the lower Dutch production comes in addition to the disruption of the Russian supplies, it would not result in supply shortages or price increases in Western Europe since gas from other regions are possible. However, these supplies would come partly from providers whose reliability might be called into question due to an unstable political situation, as for instance in North Africa

*European climate targets achievable without nuclear power*

by Claudia Kemfert [@CKemfert](#), Christian von Hirschhausen, Felix Reitz, Clemens Gerbaulet and Casimir Lorenz  
18 November 2015

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

These paper has modelled a number of scenarios to forecast European power supply up to 2050 and shows that, with an expansion of renewable energy sources, Europe can meet its climate

targets without nuclear power. The proliferation of more cost-effective renewable energy technologies, particularly wind and solar power, can compensate for the anticipated decline in nuclear power.

## **Friends of Europe**

*Climate and energy outlook - Policy challenges and choices that will shape our common future*

6 November 2015

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

If Europe is to successfully decarbonise and integrate all the renewable energy capacity that is being developed, a single European energy market is crucial. Sharing energy resources between countries and developing cross-border interconnections can reduce the total amount of capacity needed, enable that capacity to work more efficiently and reduce the need for capacity mechanisms. A successful energy system requires the trust of citizens as well as trust between nations. However, national governments remain reluctant to cede any sovereignty in this strategic area. This has to change and EU Member States need to better co-ordinate their energy strategies.

*World energy outlook 2015 Brussels launch*

30 November 2015

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

Business and governments will need to make sweeping changes in their energy plans in coming years, as prices and supply are transformed by new technologies, regulations and market conditions. The biggest impacts are expected to come from the current low energy prices and from a new global climate deal that the UN Climate Change Conference will aim for in Paris starting on 30 November.

## **Corporate Europe Observatory**

*Cooking the planet. Big Energy's year of privileged access to Europe's climate commissioners*

November 2015

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

According to data extracted from the Commission itself, this paper maintains 80% of the meetings of Miguel Arias Cañete, Commissioner for Climate and Energy, and Maroš Šefčovič, Vice-President for the Energy Union, were with the private sector. Big Energy dominated, including many of those companies most responsible for cooking the climate: in the last year, three quarters of the encounters with the energy industry to discuss climate and energy policies were with fossil fuel companies. This privileged access, claims the paper, is reflected in the Commission's policies, from the direction of the Energy Union as it locks in fossil fuel infrastructure, to the watering down of the EU's climate ambitions.

## EMPLOYMENT/SOCIAL POLICY/HEALTH/CONSUMER AFFAIRS

### Institute for Public Policy Research

*European jobs and skills - a comprehensive review - 2015*

by Catherine Colebrook [@cath\\_colebrook](#), Giselle Cory [@gisellecory](#), Tony Dolphin, Patrick Doyle, Diana Fox Carney, Izzy Hatfield [@izzyhatfield](#), Clare McNeil [@claremcneil1](#), Graham Pontin [@GPontin](#) and Alfie Stirling [@alfie\\_stirling](#)

November 2015

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

This second annual European Jobs and Skills review examines trends in employment and skills development across the EU28, and in Europe's five biggest economies: Germany, the UK, France, Spain and Italy. It assesses how effective policy has been to date at boosting employment and skills, and identifies the key labour market European jobs and skills: A comprehensive review, weaknesses that firms and policymakers need to address in the coming years.

### Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (Friedrich Ebert Foundation)

*Brain drain - brain gain: European labour markets in times of crisis*

by Alexander Schellinger (ed.)

November 2015

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

In 2012, 1.7 million EU citizens migrated to another EU country. Immigrants originating from the EU15 countries tends, on average, to be much more highly educated than the national and the non-EU immigrant population. Conflicting national interests seem to explain the divergence in the reactions and positions on intra-EU brain drain of key actors from net sending and receiving countries. The paper claims the EU constitutes the appropriate political entity to address such issues insofar as they result from European integration and have clear European scope: actors operating at EU level in the interests of all EU citizens play a significant role in problematizing the downsides of European integration and proposing EU-wide solutions to mitigate them.

*A quiet farewell?: Current developments in EU gender equality policy*

by Irene Pimminger

November 2015

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

Ensuring commitment to pro-active equality policy in the gender mainstreaming sense are objectives enshrined in the primary law of the EU. However the paper maintains over the last few years however the EU's gender equality policy has become noticeably less visible and its political relevance has dwindled. It is uncertain at present whether the EC's current strategy for equality between women and men will be replaced when it draws to a close at the end of 2015. Given that gender equality seems increasingly to be slipping further down the EU's political agenda, that would contribute to making EU gender equality policy considerably less significant.

### Bruegel

*The growing intergenerational divide in Europe*

by Pia Hüttl [@PiaHuettl](#), Karen E. Wilson [@BruegelKaren](#) and Guntram B. Wolff [@GuntramWolff](#)

November 2015

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

During seven years of economic crisis, the intergenerational income and wealth divide has increased in many EU countries. This paper reviews the pension reforms implemented by several countries and it provides policy recommendations to address the intergenerational divide.

## **Wilfried Martens Centre for European Studies**

*Live long and prosper? Demographic change and the implications of Europe's pensions crisis*

by Susanna Kochskaemper and Jochen Pimpertz

10 November 2015

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

This paper takes a closer look at the European pension systems and the challenges they face in the future. It gives an overview of demographic trends within the EU and their influence on the different types of pension systems. It also provides an in-depth analysis of the possible reform options. Many European countries have launched significant pension reforms during the past few years. These have addressed a number of the key elements of pension systems. The paper also compares the situations of four Member States - Denmark, Germany, Italy and the UK - in more detail in order to gain a deeper understanding of the different institutional settings.

## **Foundation for European Progressive Studies**

*The Welfare State and the fight against inequality: the European social model as an element of European identity. Special reference to the German case*

by Ernst Stetter [@ernststetter](#)

10 November 2015

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

The European Social Model has been loosely defined as a comprehensive welfare system combined with institutionalized industrial relations. Since the Treaty of Rome in 1957, the EU countries progressively developed a set of national and collective regulations and institutions relating to social policy and welfare. The social dimension accompanying the Economic and Monetary Union became the so-called "European Social Model", a fundamental part of the EU acquis that Member States have implemented in different ways. Solidarity and responsibility sharing, in line with the letter and spirit of the Lisbon Treaty is needed.

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

*Europas soziale Dimension: die Suche nach der Balance zwischen europäischer Solidarität und nationaler Zuständigkeit*

by Peter Becker

November 2015

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

The economic and debt crisis in the EU and the measures to consolidate national budgets led to significant social consequences - increasing poverty and high young unemployment in particular. In the meantime, the crisis has led to deep cuts in the social security systems of the Member States and Social Security has thus declined significantly. The paper claims this situation prompts a louder calls for solidarity within Europe countries as well as the explosion of new conflicts which run the risk to jeopardise EU institutional basis.

## ENVIRONMENT

### Centre for European Policy Studies

#### *Resource efficiency indicators for policy-making*

by Arno Behrens, Igor Taranic and Vasileios Rizos [@vasileios\\_rizos](#)

November 2015

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

This paper first stresses the benefits and opportunities for the EU of improving its resource efficiency. It then explains the added value of the new measuring-progress.eu web tool, which aims to improve the way policy-makers and others involved in the policy process can access, understand and use indicators for resource efficiency. It provides practical examples of relevant indicators in the form of the EU Resource Efficiency Scoreboard and a case study showing how the web tool established by NETGREEN can be used in practice. The paper concludes with a number of policy messages.

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

#### *Das Pariser Abkommen 2015: Weichenstellung für das Klimaregime*

by Susanne Dröge

November 2015

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

In 2015, international climate policy is heading towards a new goal. By December 2015, the 195 member states of the UNFCCC agree on how to deal from 2020 onwards with the challenges posed by climate change. Negotiations included key issues on climate change, the adaptation to it, possible losses and damages, the transfer of technology and the way of funding all the planned measures.

### Institut Montaigne

#### *Climat et entreprises : de la mobilisation à l'action. Sept propositions pour préparer l'après-COP21*

November 2015

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

Agreement signed in COP21 urged a more pronounced commitment and coordination among Member States for achieving a global action under the relevant climatic challenges. Bilateral agreements (including the one between China and the US) indicate major emitters of greenhouse gases changed their mind about the topic. However, government commitments have value only if the private sector takes in and gives body to what the agreement indicates.

### European Political Strategy Centre

#### *The road to COP21: game changers for European climate strategy*

25 November 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (8 p.) and in [French](#) (10 p.)

The negotiations ahead of the Paris climate conference enter into a critical phase at a dramatic time - the immediate aftermath of the terrorist attacks on Paris. The EU can make a difference in paving the way for an ambitious global deal at the 21st Conference of the Parties (COP21) and build momentum for a paradigm shift towards a low-carbon economy. Progress is within reach and has the potential to be a win-win situation for advanced and emerging economies alike. Above all, Paris is a time when the EU can lead by example and turn a global climate strategy into a concrete set of EU actions, thereby accelerating Europe's transition towards a competitive, low-carbon economy.

## **Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (Friedrich Ebert Foundation)**

*China's role in climate change negotiations : perspectives for COP21*

by Zhongxiang Zhang

November 2015

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

After an overview of China's changing stance in international climate change negotiations, this study describes goals, policies and recent developments in China, which have successfully started to curb the growth of carbon emissions over the past decade. As air pollution and other environmental topics have become increasingly important for China's society and government, these efforts by the Chinese government are likely to further grow in scale and ambition. Based on this overview, China's scope for action at COP21 is explored as well as the likelihood of reaching an ambitious international agreement.

## **European Policy Centre**

*Reaching for blue gold - How the EU can rise to the water challenge while reaping the rewards*

by Toutia Daryoush, Andrea Frontini [@AndFrontini](#), Annika Hedberg [@AnnikaAhtonen](#) and Romain Pardo

30 November 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (112 p.)

In this paper, the authors highlight the economic, environmental, societal and geopolitical value of water – or 'Blue Gold' – and argue that it's time for the EU to open up its toolbox and manage the water challenge within the Union and beyond

## **European Union Institute for Security Studies**

*Climate and power: ending the oil age?*

by Gerald Stang [@GDStang](#) and Balazs Ujvari [@balazs\\_iravju](#)

27 November 2015

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

Decarbonisation will not be easy. While necessary for the climate in the long run, working through the costs and benefits of going green now is a domestic economic challenge with strategic implications for the world's leading powers. Each country thus approaches international climate talks with the goal of ensuring that they come out as far ahead as possible. As such, the 21st Conference of Parties (COP21) in Paris is a key moment for developing an international framework for moving forward on climate issues. What factors will influence their efforts to cut out carbon and adapt to a changing planet?

## **Institute for European Environmental Policy**

*Delivering synergies between renewable energy and nature conservation messages for policy making up to 2030 and beyond*

by Catherine Bowyer, Graham Tucker, Martin Nesbit, David Baldock, Andrea Illes and Kamila Paquel

26 November 2015

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

Renewable energy is key to the decarbonisation of Europe's energy supply, however, the scale of expansion needed will have significant impacts over a considerable area. This new report suggests how a resource efficient energy system might be delivered in a way that minimises and mitigates. The paper is dealing impacts on biodiversity and the wider environment.

## EDUCATION/YOUTH/CULTURE/SPORT

### Barcelona Graduate School of Economics

*Your language or mine?*

by Ramon Caminal and Antonio Di Paolo

November 2015

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

Do languages matter beyond their communicative benefits? We explore the potential role of preferences over the language of use, theoretically and empirically. We focus on Catalonia, a bilingual society where everyone is fully proficient in Spanish, to isolate linguistic preferences from communicative benefits. Moreover, we exploit the language-in-education reform of 1983 to identify the causal effects of language skills. Results indicate that the policy change has improved the Catalan proficiency of native Spanish speakers, which in turn increased their propensity to find Catalan-speaking partners. Hence, the acquisition of apparently redundant language skills has expanded cooperation across speech communities.

### Bertelsmann Stiftung

*When competences become occupational opportunities : how informal and non-formal learning can be recognised and used in Europe*

by Claudia Gaylor, Nicolas Schöpf, Eckart Severing and Thomas Reglin

November 2015

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

This brochure looks at the education policy challenges which arise in respect of the validation of non-formal and informal learning in Europe focusing on persons with low levels of formal qualification. The object of investigation was the current nature of such procedures in eight EU countries. Possible courses of action are developed which are directed towards decision makers in the EU and its Member States at a policymaking, economic and societal level. The aim is to structure education systems in such a way so as to render them accessible also to people endowed with a low level of formal qualifications.

### Friends of Europe

*Digital skills for the future?*

25 November 2015

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

Technology is transforming the way we work. As the workplace adapts to an increasingly interconnected, information-rich world, the skills demanded by employers are changing too. Yet education systems are struggling to catch up. Education is less about drilling students to memorise facts and figures when we can potentially access the sum of human knowledge by speaking into our wristwatch. Less than half of students believe their education system is providing them with the skills they need to enter the workforce, and 52% of executives admit that a skills gap is hampering their organisation's performance.

## **Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (Friedrich Ebert Foundation)**

*Demokratie lernen - eine Aufgabe der Schule?!*

by Ute Erdsiek-Rave and Marei John-Ohnesorg (eds.)

November 2015

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

The paper deals on how the school could enforce democratic values in Europe during economic and political crisis. Religious and cultural diversity, inclusion, changing family structures shape the school day by day and they can be a source of conflict, but also a topic for teaching and practical tests for democratic coexistence at school. This calls for the development of commonly shared rules, solid structures such as Joint school conferences, class and student councils. On the other hand the paper suggests the diffusion of work on socially relevant projects and open discussions on EU core values could enforce the experience of democracy.

*Handlungsempfehlungen zur Auseinandersetzung mit islamistischem Extremismus und Islamfeindlichkeit : Arbeitsergebnisse eines Expertengremiums der Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung*

by Dietmar Molthagen (ed.)

November 2015

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

The paper deals with the risk of Islamist attacks as well as of Islamophobia. The paper is focusing on German presence in Islamic extremism: German jihadists are active in Syria and Iraq and their return would be a tough security risk. The paper suggests to block IS foreign fighters returns, as already done in other EU countries. Meanwhile, surveys show that Islamophobic sentiments have increased since the attacks of 11 September 2001. The paper concludes that even though Islamophobia and Islamist extremism are not directly connected, both phenomena influence each other. Young, radicalized Muslims state that a driving force of their radicalization was the discrimination they felt indeed.

## SECTION 5 - FOREIGN AFFAIRS

### FOREIGN AND SECURITY POLICY

#### **Egmont – Royal Institute for International Relations**

*European strategy, European defence and the CSDP*

by Jo Coelmont, Sven Biscop, Dick Zandee and Margriet Drent  
11 November 2015

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

The report lists key issues which need to be addressed in the new strategy, with a particular focus on CSDP. The report is divided into three sections. The first part focuses on the challenges for the EU stemming from the changing strategic environment. The second section looks into the question of what the EU's level of ambition should be in response to those challenges. The third part looks at the consequences for CSDP in terms of the scope and character of operations but also what a White Book on CSDP should entail. The report closes with a list of issues which will require further discussion during the next steps in the consultation process for the new strategy.

#### **Institut français des relations internationales**

*L'Europe à la croisée des chemins : la politique de défense et de sécurité a besoin d'initiatives franco-allemandes*

25 November 2015

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

After the Ukrainian crisis, the agreement on the Iranian nuclear program and the fight against the so-called "Islamic State" (IS) organization, the refugee crisis imposes its rhythm to the special EU summits. Given these developments, the conditions now seem right for an agreement within the 28 Member States on the need to strengthen the common foreign and security policy of the EU.

*La présidence allemande de l'OSCE en 2016 - Vers un renouement du dialogue avec la Russie ?*

by Barbara Kunz [@Kunz\\_CerfaParis](#)

November 2015

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

At the end of 2014, the German government decided to run for the presidency of the OSCE and the Council of Ministers of the organization accepted this nomination by consensus in December 2014. Germany will therefore take over from Serbia on 1 January 2016. This presidency is already prepared by a "task force" specially created within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Berlin and the Social Democrat Gernot Erler was appointed special Envoy of the federal Government to the German presidency of the OSCE in 2016.

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

*Unerwartet, überraschend, ungeplant: Zugespitzte Situationen in der internationalen Politik*

by Lars Brozus

November 2015

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

A cursory look at the most prominent foreign and security political upheavals of recent decades shows that real surprises are very rare. Although many politicians and analysts perceived the disintegration of the Soviet Union, the 11 September attacks and the popular uprisings in North Africa, they were unprepared for the Middle East. Therefore, after each of these events began an intense discussion about how it could have happened and how the crucial developments were

overlooked. In retrospect, it is then regularly considerably easier to identify the "historical landmarks" (critical junctures).

## **RAND Europe**

*Cybersecurity in the European Union and beyond: exploring the threats and policy responses*

by Nicole van der Meulen, Eun Jo and Stefan Soesanto

18 November 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (153 p.)

This study sets out to develop a better understanding of the main cybersecurity threats and existing cybersecurity capabilities in the EU and the US. The study further examines transnational cooperation and explores perceptions of the effectiveness of the EU response, pinpointing remaining challenges and suggesting avenues for improvement.

## **Ulkopoliittinen instituutti (Finnish Institute of International Affairs)**

*National courts and foreign policy: prosecuting foreign state leaders for international crimes*

by Katja Creutz [@KatjaCreutz](#)

30 November 2015

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

Heads of state are increasingly being subjected to criminal investigations for committing international crimes, either by the courts of their home states, international criminal tribunals, or foreign national courts. This briefing paper takes issue with these claims and looks into national prosecutions of foreign heads of state. Second, it looks into the foreign policy implications of such prosecution by contrasting the role of judicial policing with strained ties. Finally, the paper discusses whether or not it is possible or even desirable to reduce or do away with the political dimension of such trials, thereby minimizing the risk of international tension.

## **TRADE**

### **Barcelona Centre for International Affairs**

*The Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) negotiations between the EU and the USA: caught between myth and reality?*

by Sangeeta Khorana (ed.)

November 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (212 p.)

With the publication of this monograph, which is the product of an international seminar held end of May 2015, CIDOB aims to play its part in the debate. The experts' contributions contained here explain the pros and cons of the agreement and should aid citizens, consumers, the interested public, businesspeople, unions and political decision-makers to take positions based on deeper knowledge of the agreement and the negotiations underway.

## DEVELOPMENT

### European Centre for Development Policy Management

*EU Trust Funds – Shaping more comprehensive external action?*

by Volker Hauck, Anna Knoll [@anna\\_katharinak](#) and Alisa Herrero Cangas [@alisaherrero1](#)

November 2015

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

EU Trust Funds are a new instrument in EU external action. Their creation responds to the EU's will to deliver more flexible, comprehensive and effective joint EU support, and increase the EU's global visibility and political weight in challenging contexts. They provide opportunities for the EU and its Member States to deliver more flexible, comprehensive and effective joint support in response to emergencies, fragility and thematic priorities. As such, they can help to increase the EU's global visibility and allow to speak politically and operationally with one voice in very different contexts and regions.

### Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (Friedrich Ebert Foundation)

*Mind the transformation trap: laying the political foundation for sustainable development*

by Marc Saxer [@marc\\_saxer](#)

November 2015

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

The transformation trap is the inability to resolve the political, social and economic contradictions typical to transformation societies. Amidst social and political conflict, what is necessary to graduate to the next stage of development may not be implementable politically. A progressive transformation project should therefore focus on laying the social foundation for sustainable development through an inclusive compromise between established and emerging classes. The development narrative needs to shift from communalist patronage and identity politics to innovation and empowerment through the provision of full capabilities for all.

## EASTERN PARTNERSHIP

### Latvijas Ārpolitikas institūts (Latvian Institute of International Affairs)

*A more geopolitical Eastern Partnership: U-turn or "the lady's not for turning"?*

by Diāna Potjomkina [@DianaPotjomkina](#)

November 2015

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

This paper seeks to answer if and what changes have been brought into EU's relations with Latvia's priority region in the European Neighbourhood Policy, that is Eastern Neighbours; and in particular, whether we can speak about geopolitics increasingly taking roots in the EU's policy.

### Polski Instytut Spraw Międzynarodowych (Polish Institute of International Affairs)

*Aid coordination in Moldova: politics killing policy*

by Victoria Bucătaru and Anita Sobják [@AnitaSobjak](#)

27 November 2015

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

If Moldova was once the most advanced Eastern Partnership state in terms of aid coordination, government ownership of the process has significantly weakened as a result of the political crisis. Although donors continue to cooperate among themselves via well-established channels, participation by state institutions is currently limited. Once the political setting is stabilised, the

government will need to go to great lengths to regain the trust of its external partners and re-establish donor coordination. This is fundamental if Moldova is to make the best use of assistance in order to recover its finances quickly.

## **College of Europe**

*EU democratization policies in the Neighbourhood countries and Russia's reaction as a destabilizing factor. A comparative case study of Georgia and Moldova*

by Doina Pinzari

November 2015

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

The EU democratization policies have not achieved the expected results in EaP countries but they have led to the most important crisis in EU after the end of the cold war. Assuming that democratization, as part of EU's neighbourhood policies, can be considered a threat to Russia and hence a 'destabilizing factor' for the EU partners, this paper try to understand what changes can be made to EU policies and to what extent cooperation between EU and Russia is possible in democratization policies in Georgia and Moldova.

## **ENLARGEMENT PROCESS**

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

*prEUgovor report on progress of Serbia in chapters 23 and 24*

by Milan Aleksić (ed.)

November 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (52 p.) and in [Serbian](#) (48 p.)

The coalition prEUgovor has been monitoring Serbia's progress in regard to the adherence to policies covered under Chapters 23 (Judiciary and Fundamental Rights) and 24 (Justice, Freedom and Security) of the European Acquis in the negotiation process. The report is divided into three main parts: Political criteria, Chapter 23 and Chapter 24. The end of each subchapter of this report contains recommendations for possible future improvements.

### **Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (Friedrich Ebert Foundation)**

*Young people in Serbia 2015 : situation, perceptions, beliefs and aspirations*

by Smiljka Tomanovic and Dragan Stanojevic

November 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (146 p.) and in [Serbian](#) (140 p.)

This study examines the civic and political perceptions as well as the individual experiences of young people in Serbia today. It explores attitudes, beliefs and expectations of a younger generation which mainly grew up in a transition country fifteen years after the democratic change. It covers material status and living conditions, education, work and employment, family and leisure, trust, attitudes and beliefs, future aspirations as well as politics and EU-Accession of Serbia as its main research topics. Many young people in Serbia do have their reservations towards Serbia's accession process to the EU but, at the same time, show a very pragmatic attitude to its necessity.

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

*Westbalkan als Kollateralschaden der europäischen Passivität? Aktuelle Entwicklungen im Lichte der EU-Erweiterungspolitik und der Flüchtlingsproblematik*

by Vedran Dzihic

November 2015

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

Enlargement candidates in Southeast Europe in 2015 are stuck in a true crisis. Among the persistent structural, political and socio-economic difficulties in the region, new problems were added, due to the continued strong influx of refugees along the West Balkan route. At the same time, the appeal of the EU role models tends to decrease. Against this background, the paper analyses the current developments in South East Europe and outlines potential hazards at a continued strategy of business as usual in the enlargement policy.

## AFRICA

### Istituto Affari Internazionali

*The EU and Africa: regionalism and interregionalism beyond Institutions*

by Nicoletta Pirozzi [@NicolePirozzi](#) and Andréas Godsäter

17 November 2015

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

This paper aims at mapping relevant trends of regionalism and interregionalism in and between Europe and Africa, through historical evolution and more recent developments. The analysis focuses on institutionalized regionalism and interregionalism between the EU and the African Union (AU), as well as regional organizations in Southern, West and East Africa in the three sectors of trade; security; and environment. It also goes beyond by addressing and comparing formal and informal, state and non-state, patterns of integration at regional and transnational levels, concluding the EU and AU present many commonalities in terms of institutional architecture.

## ASIA-OCEANIA

### European Union Centre in Singapore

*EU competition law: a roadmap for ASEAN?*

by Barbora Valockova

November 2015

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

This working paper aims at analysing whether EU competition law could serve as a template for ASEAN by using it as a source or reference for developing its own model of competition policy and legal instruments. However the development of ASEAN's own competition regime will not follow exactly the roadmap of the EU due to the different approaches towards regional economic integration, legislative frameworks and institutional structures. The paper also examines possible lessons from EU competition law regime and the most appropriate solutions for a successful ASEAN competition law regime.

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

*From competition to compatibility: striking a Eurasian balance?*

by Tony van der Togt [@TonyvanderTogt](#) and Francesco Saverio Montesano  
23 November 2015

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

This report starts with a comprehensive analysis of the EEU, focusing on its pillars but also on the main defining features of the stance towards this new form of regionalism held by each country in the Eurasian. Based on this analysis, which also acknowledges and highlights the key role played by China in the region, the report assesses the pros and cons of three possible strategic options for the EU in dealing with the EEU: Full Engagement, Competing Unions, and Tentative Compatibility.

**Friends of Europe**

*The Asian paradox - Rising wealth, lingering tensions*

13 November 2015

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

East Asia's increasingly shrill territorial disputes over the past few years have exposed the region's lack of mechanisms for maintaining sustainable peace, stoking fears that a disagreement could trigger a large conflict in the region.

**CHINA**

**Utrikespolitiska Institutet (Swedish Institute of International Affairs)**

*Hong Kong's umbrella movement in search of self-determination*

by Tim Rühlig [@ruehlig](#)

25 November 2015

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

This paper intends to assess the results of the umbrella movement. It is largely built upon field research in Hong Kong in 2015, including in-depth interviews with activists, journalists, politicians, members of think tanks and social scientists as well as the analysis of media reports and the limited amount of scientific analysis of the umbrella movement that has been published so far.

*Recognising recognition through thick and thin: insights from Sino-Japanese relations*

by Karl Gustafsson

November 2015

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

This article further develops the concepts of 'thin' and 'thick' recognition as it addresses the problem of how to recognise recognition. Based on an analysis of empirical material on what, in Japan, has been interpreted as Chinese non- and misrecognition of Japan, the article shows how concrete expressions of thin and thick recognition between established states can be recognised.

## **Polski Instytut Spraw Międzynarodowych (Polish Institute of International Affairs)**

### *China's security activities extend beyond Asia*

by Justyna Szczudlik-Tatar

26 November 2015

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

Under Xi Jinping, the PRC has modified its military strategy, highlighting a new dimension of security threats, paying more attention to the country's navy and air forces and in developing capabilities to win information wars along with centralising decision-making. Under these circumstances, China's security activities extend beyond Asia and may lead to tension or even conflicts. But there are also opportunities. The PRC's growing interests in Europe, Africa and the Middle East mean the EU may be able to cooperate with China on such security issues as the refugee crisis and fighting terrorism.

## **IRAN**

### **Barcelona Centre for International Affairs**

#### *The nuclear deal with Iran, the NPT review deadlock and the Ukrainian crisis*

by Agnieszka Nimark

November 2015

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

Despite the great progress made this year in the non-proliferation field, the agreement with Iran needs to be seen in the broader perspective of the entire NPT regime, widely regarded as the cornerstone of global nuclear governance. Even though the current situation in the Middle East would most probably make any negotiation process obsolete now, in the long term, lack of agreement regarding the establishment of a WMD-free zone might have serious implications for the NPT regime at large. The Ukrainian crisis simply underlines how strongly the global nuclear order is affected and shaped by the general state of US-Russia relations.

## **MIDDLE EAST/NORTH AFRICA (MENA)**

### **Euro-Mediterranean Study Commission**

#### *In search of a new balance between agricultural trade and development in the Euro-Mediterranean*

by Marko Lovec

November 2015

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

The recent food security crisis has shed light on the importance of agricultural development in the South Mediterranean countries. An 'urban bias' and 'trade liberalisation' policies have resulted in growing dependence on imports, narrow specialisations and unsustainable production practices. The Euro-Mediterranean integration process has put trade liberalisation in the centre of attention, while the progress in agriculture has been limited. This paper analyses the challenges faced by agro-food systems in Southern and Eastern Mediterranean Countries, with attention to the role of the Euro-Mediterranean integration and the reform of the Common Agricultural Policy.

## **Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (Friedrich Ebert Foundation)**

*Renewable energy transitions in Jordan and the MENA region*

by Bernhard Brand, Manfred Fishedick and Thomas Fink

November 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (70 p.)

Sustainable energy visions for the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region often follow the narratives of top-down planning approaches, such as large transcontinental power exchange schemes with Europe or prestigious renewable energy roadmaps laid out by national governments in the region. The recent setback of some of these concepts raises the question of whether alternative ways exist to portray the transitions of MENA energy systems. We argue that the concept of Transition Research Theory - in particular the Multi-Level Perspective (MLP) - can be a helpful tool to better understand and delineate the complex processes of change and find new narratives for energy system transitions in the MENA region towards more sustainability.

## **RUSSIA**

### **Polski Instytut Spraw Międzynarodowych (Polish Institute of International Affairs)**

*Russia under sanctions: assessing the damage, scrutinising adaptation and evasion*

by Stanislav Secieru [@StasSecieru](#)

19 November 2015

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

The sanctions aim at giving a chance for a deeper democracy to take root and thrive in Ukraine, in tune with the popular demands expressed in 2013-2014. Their reversibility shows that the main goal is to help Ukrainian statehood survive in the context of Russia's military aggression. As the West has ruled out direct use of lethal means to protect Ukraine, the sanctions came to represent an efficient, low-cost tool to shelter Ukraine and constrain Russia's power. It was pivotal that the West responded as it did in 2014. Had it delayed, the Russian aggression, unopposed, would have threatened not only Ukraine's existence but some of its neighbours as well. In this case, the West would have been forced to design a response anyway, although one ultimately riskier and costlier.

### **Institut français des relations internationales**

*Russia: business and State*

by Igor Bounine and Alexeï Makarkine

18 November 2015

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

Business in Russia today is closely intertwined with the political sphere. But the forms of business's involvement in politics have differed radically at different stages in history. Initially, business played an active role, displacing the government from its position due to its vigorous expansion. Subsequently, the state began to regroup, reinforcing its positions not just in politics but in the market too. Despite increased economic uncertainty and enormous changes in Russia's foreign policy positions, the government currently remains the central actor in both Russian politics and the economy.

*Cross-domain coercion: the current Russian art of strategy*

by Dmitry Adamsky

2 November 2015

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

This paper traces the evolution of Russian views on the art of coercion, and on the role of nuclear weapons in it, from the post-Cold War "regional nuclear deterrence" thinking to the current

"Gerasimov doctrine". Cross-domain coercion operates under the aegis of the Russian nuclear arsenal and aims to manipulate the adversary's perception, to manoeuvre its decision-making process, and to influence its strategic behaviour while minimizing the scale of kinetic use force use. Current Russian operational art thus involves a nuclear dimension that can only be understood in the context of a holistic coercion campaign, an integrated whole in which non-nuclear, informational, and nuclear capabilities can be used in the pursuit of deterrence and coercion.

## **Deutsche Gesellschaft für Auswärtige Politik**

*Die Wahrheit hat immer zwei Seiten. Frankreichs offenes Ohr für russische Propaganda*

by Claire Demesmay

November 2015

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

France's foreign policy weight and Russia traditionally friendly attitude of its elites make the country a priority of Moscow non-military influence. Anti-Americanism and distrust of globalization are more pronounced there than in many other EU countries; a critical attitude towards Brussels resulted in the last European elections to a great success of the right-wing Front National - close to Moscow.

## **TURKEY**

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

*Scientific cooperation between the European Union and Turkey – advantages and possible synergies*

by Ágota Dávid and Tamás Szigetvári

November 2015

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

To increase its competitiveness, Turkey set research and development as a priority area for the next decade, with the ambitious goal of reaching 3% of GERD/GDP by 2023. Turkey is an active member of the European research area and an associated member of the RDI Framework Programmes since 2002. In the Turkish national STI strategy for 2011-2016, the three vertical and six horizontal axes consist of various scientific areas like ICT, Energy, Defence, Water, Food, also priority areas in the European H2020 programme. This article focuses on possible synergies between priority areas, as well as on the role of SMEs in the innovation chain.

## **UKRAINE**

### **Polski Instytut Spraw Międzynarodowych (Polish Institute of International Affairs)**

*The silence of the guns: can the cease-fire in Donbass last?*

by Stanislav Secieru [@StasSecieru](#)

10 November 2015

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

Since the outbreak of the war in Donbass, the situation on the frontline is nearly a proper cease-fire, due to the interplay of three factors: the political-military balance in Donbass, sanctions and Russia's military intervention in Syria. However, Russia is likely to use force if needed to repel a Ukrainian attempt to retake parts of the area, to obstruct the Minsk process if it goes in a disadvantageous direction for Moscow, or to seize more territory if there is further political and social turmoil in Ukraine. To minimize the risks, the EU and U.S. should prolong the sanctions, fine-tune the diplomatic pressure on both sides to implement and uphold the Minsk Protocols, and pay more attention to the political and economic transformations in the rest of Ukraine.

## UNITED STATES

### Istituto Affari Internazionali

*Regional and interregional interactions in Europe, North America and across the North Atlantic*

by Riccardo Alcaro and Patrick Reilly

17 November 2015

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

If we figured regionalism as a continuum from rudimentary regional interaction to very sophisticated forms of it, Europe stands on this latter end while North America barely makes it to the middle point. The imbalance in the degree of regionalization on the two northern shores of the Atlantic explains the non-existent region-to-region interaction. The case of US-Europe relations actually goes beyond quasi-interregionalism and displays traits that are more characteristic of regionalism than anything else. A comparison of regionalism in Europe and North America is therefore invariably destined to be an exercise involving a third, bicontinental region: the West.

### German Marshall Fund of the United States

*Transatlantic digital dialogue: rebuilding trust through cooperative reform*

by Ben Scott

5 November 2015

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

The findings presented here are rooted in three convictions 1) that transatlantic relationships have weakened as a result of the fractious and inconclusive debate between the EU and the U.S. over surveillance practices; 2) that a multinational modernization of a rights-based framework for privacy and security policy is needed to address these challenges; and 3) that solutions should be aligned with principles of human rights, responsive to the complex political economy of surveillance policy, and premised on common interests and values.

## SPECIAL FOCUS - AFTER THE PARIS ATTACKS

### Centre for European Policy Studies

#### *The EU and its counter-terrorism policies after the Paris attacks*

by Didier Bigo, Sergio Carrera, Elspeth Guild, Emmanuel-Pierre Guittet [@EPGManchester](#), Julien Jeandesboz [@jjeandesboz](#), Valsamis Mitsilegas, Francesco Ragazzi [@fragazzi](#) and Amandine Scherrer [@Scherrer\\_A](#)

November 2015

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

This paper examines the EU's counter-terrorism policies responding to the Paris attacks of 13 November 2015. It argues that these events call for a re-think of the current information-sharing and preventive-justice model guiding the EU's counter-terrorism tools, along with security agencies such as Europol and Eurojust. Priority should be given to independently evaluating 'what has worked' and 'what has not' when it comes to police and criminal justice cooperation in the Union.

#### *European security after the Paris attacks*

by Giovanni Faleg [@gioFALEG](#)

24 November 2015

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

The November 13th terrorist attacks in Paris have prompted the EU to activate the mutual assistance clause contained in Art. 42.7 of the EU Treaty. Member states are now entering the uncharted territory of large-scale conflict: will they join a French-led coalition of the willing, or is the military intervention against Daesh being Europeanised? This paper explores implications of the Paris attacks on European security and recommends coordinated and comprehensive responses to be taken within the EU framework.

#### *Europe's self-defence: tous pour un et un pour tous?*

by Christophe Hillion and Steven Blockmans

20 November 2015

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

When he addressed the French Parliament following the terrorist atrocities in Paris on November 13th, French President François Hollande invoked Article 42(7) of the Treaty on the EU. Never before has this EU 'mutual assistance clause' been activated by an EU Member State. What does it provide and what are its practical implications?

### **Nederlands Instituut voor Internationale Betrekkingen - Clingendael (Netherlands Institute of International Relations) / International Centre for Counter-Terrorism – The Hague**

#### *Paris: 11/13/15 - Analysis and policy options*

by Grégory Chauzal [@gregorychauzal](#), Ko Colijn, Bibi van Ginkel [@bibivanginkel](#), Christophe Paulussen, Sofia Zavagli [@sofiazavagli](#) and Mark Singleton [@Mark\\_Singleton](#)

20 November 2015

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

The November 13th attacks on carefully chosen targets in Paris were meant to kill and injure as many civilians as possible. Judging by the terrorists' tactics and methods, these attacks indeed bear IS's trademark. "Paris" was the latest in a string of IS attacks outside Syria and Iraq, and suggest that it has shifted its attention to external targets to create fear and undermine societies elsewhere, notably in anti-IS coalition members. As such, it marks a significant shift in IS's operations and illustrates the vulnerabilities of European security services and the impossibility of exercising full control.

## European Council on Foreign Relations

*After Paris: what price European defence?*

by Arnand Menon and Nick Witney

24 November 2015

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

Following the terrorist attacks in Paris and France's call for EU solidarity, EU should rekindle defence cooperation and aid France's deployments in Africa, according to this paper. The authors argue that even though France has asked its EU partners to share in some of its overseas military deployments, the EU's common defence policy has broken down. They say that with the EU in danger of tearing itself apart over responses to the migrant crisis, an adequate response to France's appeal is vital for European solidarity. While they acknowledge that few EU states will want to bomb Syria, they assert that aiding France's deployments in Africa would show solidarity – and help to address some of the root causes of the migrant crisis.

*Syrian diplomacy renewed: from Vienna to Raqqa*

by Julien Barnes-Dacey [@jbdacey](#) and Daniel Levy

27 November 2015

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

The authors argue that the Vienna process should be the priority for EU governments and that an approach which over-emphasizes military action risks doing more harm than good. The authors assert that EU has been all too absent from high-level diplomatic engagement over Syria, allowing others to take the lead. But with the Syrian war and its resulting surge of refugees re-shaping politics across the continent there is too much at stake to remain bit-part players. They contend that EU governments can adopt an approach aimed at softening up allies for necessary pragmatism as opposed to indulging an unwillingness to compromise.

## Fondation Robert Schuman

*The European Union and the fight to counter terrorism*

by Philippe Delivet

24 November 2015

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

The deadly attacks perpetrated across Europe in 2015 have highlighted the reality and extent of the jihadist terrorist threat. They also pose the question of Europe's response to this threat with great acuity. The measures provided for in the treaties do not diminish the Member States' exercise of responsibility in maintaining public order and the protection of internal security (article 72 TFEU). But the Union must also work to ensure a high level of security, particularly via measures involving coordination and cooperation between police and judicial authorities (article 67 TFEU). And so the question of European "added-value" is raised in a battle that is first and foremost the responsibility of the Member States themselves.

## Royal United Services Institute

*UK air strikes in Syria: time for a decision?*

by Malcolm Chalmers [@MChalmers\\_RUSI](#)

18 November 2015

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

The ISIS attacks on Paris will bring renewed focus to the debate on the extension of UK counter-ISIS air strikes to Syria. A commitment by the House of Commons to take part in coalition air strikes in Syria would be seen as an important demonstration of solidarity with France, which has contributed its own forces to air strikes in Syria since September.

## **Real Instituto Elcano (Elcano Royal Institute)**

*La solidaridad española con Francia y el artículo 42.7 del Tratado de la UE*

by Félix Arteaga

23 November 2015

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

France is at war. Its President has declared it before the Congress following the attacks in Paris. France has been attacked and its Minister of Defence has informed his European colleagues of the same, invoking Article 42.7 of the Treaty of the European Union, to which they have shown solidarity.

*Terroristas, redes y organizaciones: facetas de la actual movilización yihadista en España*

by Fernando Reinares [@F\\_Reinares](#) and Carola García-Calvo [@carolagc13](#)

16 November 2015

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

For the last four years, the emergence of indigenous or home-grown Jihadism in Spain has occurred in conjunction with the global jihadist movement and is affecting the countries of Western Europe. Nine out of 10 cases of jihadists or jihadists arrested in Spain since 2013 were involved in terrorist networks, both newly formed as reconstituted nature, among whose functions are included from radicalization to training. Terrorist networks organizationally connected with the so-called Islamic State -and to a lesser extent the al-Nusra Front Rama of al-Qaeda in Syria, among other jihadi organizations active in the Middle East and North Africa.

## **New America Foundation**

*ISIS in the West: the new faces of extremism*

by Courtney Schuster, David Sterman [@Dsterms](#) and Peter Bergen

November 2015

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

Who exactly are the estimated 4,500 Westerners drawn to join ISIS and other militant groups in Syria, and how great of a threat do they pose? In the wake of Friday's harrowing terrorist attacks in Paris, this report reviews what is known about the Westerners drawn to Jihadist groups.

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

*Las raíces del Estado Islámico*

by Rafael L. Bardají

November 2015

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

With this paper we try to illuminate the nature of the Islamic state, its ends and means and, therefore, how to end the threat. We also want to trace the real roots of the now called Islamic State and its permanent objectives, as we shall see, go far beyond each individual phase of its existence and each denomination adopted at all times by their leaders. The Islamic State is not born of desire to fight allied intervention in Iraq in 2003, but the ambition to "purify" the Muslim world itself. Its rise has to do mainly with unbridled passions between Sunnis and Shiites and the absence of international forces.

### *'Quietist' and 'firebrand' Salafism in Algeria*

by Anouar Boukhars [@aboukhars01](#)

23 November 2015

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

Salafi ideology and activism are once again emerging as the locus of societal contention and political controversy in Algeria. The state has taken an ambivalent approach to the surge of Salafism but is now adopting some measures to marginalise the radical Salafi discourse. However, countering religious extremism ultimately requires addressing the root causes of militancy - persistent political paralysis and lack of opportunity.

### **Institut de relations internationales et stratégiques**

#### *Le martyre comme processus social*

by Julia Sei

November 2015

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

The concept of martyrdom was long dominant in the Western imagination. It is now associated with the idea of a frantic search for death rather than patience and endurance. But beyond its mythical or party representation, it is a phenomenon that requires a historical and sociological understanding. It can be seen as the barometer of a society: the more martyrs, the more the crisis is great. But martyrdom could not be effective without the tacit approval of the group who encourages it. This interaction between individual and group is crucial: it is the agreement, in the heart of a strange reciprocity, which gives meaning to the death of martyrs. As a group phenomenon, martyrdom is central to social issues. The figure of the martyr crystallizes the feeling of belonging to a community or to a radical faction, for the choice of self-sacrifice demonstrates the ultimate commitment to a cause. This concept of choice is very important to understand the dynamics of contemporary martyrdom.

## REGARDS CROISÉS

### Centre for Policy Studies

#### *Portugal's demographic crisis*

by William Sternberg

3 November 2015

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

In recent years EU members have experienced many of the same demographic trends: a declining fertility rate, an aging population and slowing rates of population growth. However, Portugal stands out. Its rate of population growth has dropped very quickly and it currently has one of the fastest declining populations in Europe. It must be highlighted that if this trend continue, Portugal in the next 10-15 years will face major problems caused by the combined effects of a falling birth-rate, a declining labour force, an aging population and emigration of both skilled and unskilled workers. With legislative elections in October 2015, it is the responsibility of the new government to attempt to formulate policies that will prevent a possible future decline in international competitiveness.

### Hanns-Seidel-Stiftung (Hanns Seidel Foundation)

#### *Großbritannien nach der Unterhauswahl 2015*

by Alice Neuhäuser

November 2015

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

The Conservatives won an absolute majority and henceforth govern alone. The focus of their government agenda is the active population. With the choice of Jeremy Corbyns, who represents part socialist ideas, for Labour leader and the triumph of the Scottish National Party, the political system will be mixed. The influx of refugees to Europe worried the British government and the output of the EU referendum is open.

### Konrad Adenauer Stiftung

#### *The end of neutrality and non-alignment?*

by Anna-Lena Kirch

24 November 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (15 p.) and in [German](#) (16 p.)

Against the backdrop of rising security risks and a vulnerable economic situation, the new government of Finland announced strengthening the Nordic cooperation, participation in European security and defense policy and cooperation with the NATO. The country thus forgoes its principles of non-alignment in peacetime and neutrality in the event of military conflict.

#### *Microstate and superpower - The Vatican in international politics*

by Christian E. Rieck and Dorothee Niebuhr

12 November 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (23 p.) and in [German](#) (24 p.)

The Holy See has taken part in central global political decisions and events since the second half of the 20th century. In doing so it falls back on foreign policy networks and non-classical power resources. Since the inauguration of Pope Francis, the international significance of the Holy See has grown.

## Institut français des relations internationales

*Greek-German relations in times of crisis*

by George Tzogopoulos [@Tzogopoulos](#)

30 November 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (25 p.) and in [French](#) (27 p.)

The current Greek-German relations are the topic of this essay. It places special emphasis on the period of the Greek government coalition between SY.RIZ.A and Greeks Independents in 2015, with a particular stress on the political dimension of the negotiations conducted by Athens and Berlin at the EU. It offers an exploration of mistakes and opportunities that have marked their bilateral relations.

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