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Dear Readers,

Welcome to issue 26 of the Think Tank Review compiled by the EU Council Library* ([click to share on Twitter](#)). It references papers published in June 2015. As usual, we provide the link to the full text and a short abstract.

We approach the summer break - and a forthcoming reshuffle in the team which curates the TTR - with a rich selection of content inspired by recent developments, such as the [publication of the five presidents' report](#) on completing the EMU, which could be read in conjunction with the [contribution](#) by the Irish IIEA, or the [one](#) by Notre Europe.

On the equally topical notion of sovereign debt, the [Schuldenreport](#) from the German Development Institute, with a foreword by Joseph Stiglitz, enlarges the perspective to the global scale, examining the potential of codes of conduct for responsible borrowing and lending.

With a longer term perspective, we signal the [analysis](#) by the Swedish Institute for European Policy Studies of how the focus of EU expenditure shifted since the Lisbon treaty, while *Real Instituto Elcano* [reconstructs](#) the context of Spain's accession to the Community in 1986.

On institutional arrangements, the *Deutsche Gesellschaft für Auswärtige Politik* looks, once again, to Franco-German cooperation in EU affairs, examining the options to enlarge that dialogue to a variable geometry of [trilateral](#) fora. In a Carnegie paper, the former EEAS secretary general Pierre Vimont looks at reforms needed to make the EU external action more effective.

Still on external relations, in June we saw think tanks focusing again on Russia. Several substantial papers ended up in this month's Special Focus section, exploring notions of hybrid warfare, propaganda and the nature of the Russian state, as well as the territorial dimension of Ukraine - *fragments d'Empires déchus*, as one author put it, rather than a country neatly divided in two. The whole to be read in conjunction with the [survey](#) by Pew Research Center on public attitudes towards Russia in various NATO countries.

* * *

As said, after a few years spent on a rewarding journey in the jungle of EU policy information, some members of the TTR team, including this editor, are moving or will soon move on to new challenges. While we do not expect the TTR to change substantially, the injection of fresh talent may well be the opportunity to adjust the product to the needs of its faithful readers. Your input is welcome, as always.

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The next Review will be out in September 2015, with papers published in July and August.

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SECTION 1 - EU POLITICS AND INSTITUTIONS

Centrum für Europäische Politik (Centre for European Policy)

The European Citizens' Initiative - Experience of the first three years

by Klaus-Dieter Sohn

15 June 2015

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

The European Citizens' Initiative (ECI) has been created as an instrument of direct democracy enabling citizens to get involved in European politics by way of concrete initiatives. The ECI allows them to invite the EU Commission to submit legislative proposals on certain topics. This article explains how the ECI works, reveals what experiences have been gained so far and indicates where there is need for improvement.

Friends of the Earth Europe / Corporate Europe Observatory / LobbyControl

MEPs on industry payroll: potential conflicts of interest persist in EU parliament

17 June 2015

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

This report argues that MEPs who have other remunerated activities while holding public office are in a potential conflict of interest, and calls for a revision of the Parliament's Code of Conduct.

Central European Policy Institute

V4 in the European Parliament: punching above its weight?

by Vít Dostál and Ondřej Mocek

3 June 2015

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

The authors find that the 14,1% of European Parliament members (106 out of 751) who come from the Visegrád Group countries are – at least on paper - punching above their weight: they hold 5 out of 22 committee chairs (22,7%) and 22 out 87 committee vice chairs (25,3%).

Policy Network

The populist signal

by Claudia Chwalisz [@ClaudiaChwalisz](#)

11 June 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (121 p.)

The social and economic shifts of the past few decades have hardened the deeply held scepticism and distrust of 'the establishment'. In an age of historically low party membership, party identification, voter volatility, rising abstentionism and greater individualism, mainstream parties are struggling to be representative. This paper is about the turbulent political scene unfolding in Britain and across western Europe. It focuses on why large swathes of voters feel that politics does not work, how this fuels support for insurgent parties and actors, and it investigates the power of democratic innovations.

Pew Research Center

Faith in European project reviving: but most say rise of eurosceptic parties is a good thing

by Bruce Stokes [@bruceestokes](#)

2 June 2015

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

Pew Research surveyed opinion in early 2015 in some Member States, finding that favourable views of the EU and faith in the efficacy of creating a single market are generally rebounding. And this revival in pro-EU sentiment is closely related to the public's economic mood.

European Union Centre in Singapore

Brexit – Lessons from four referenda on the European Union (EU) in Denmark

by Joergen Oerstroem Moeller

June 2015

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

The author served in 1989-1997 as State-Secretary in the Danish Foreign Ministry. From 1972 to 1993 Denmark staged four referenda on the EU. Two of them in particular hold valuable lessons for Britain seeking new terms – in June 1992 on the Treaty on EU (Maastricht Treaty), the Danes voted "NO" with a slim majority; this was followed by another vote on the treaty in May 1993 on the Edinburgh Agreement with a "YES" vote. The majority votes according to instinct and intuition and is often guided by emotions. The Danish case highlights the importance of defining clearly specific exceptions, working hard to explain the case (at home and abroad), establishing good-will, and conveying that exceptions are in principle temporary and do not require treaty changes.

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

The accession of the EU to the European Convention on Human Rights: a critical analysis of the Opinion of the European Court of Justice

by Joakim Nergelius

June 2015

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

The Lisbon Treaty clearly expresses that the EU should accede to the European Convention on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms. Nonetheless, the Court of Justice ruled, quite unexpectedly, in December 2014, that the draft agreement on the accession is not compatible with EU law. In this report, the author sheds light on the Court's opinion and addresses the question of what happens now.

SECTION 2 - ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

Bruegel

The effects of ultra-loose monetary policies on inequality

by Grégory Claeys [@gregclaeys](#), Zsolt Darvas [@ZsoltDarvas](#), Alvaro Leandro and Thomas Walsh [@7thomaswal5h](#)

25 June 2015

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

Low interest rates, asset purchases and other accommodative monetary policy measures tend to increase asset prices and thereby benefit the wealthier segments of society, at least in the short-term, given that asset holdings are mainly concentrated among richest households. Such policies also support employment, economic activity, incomes and inflation, which can benefit the poor and middle-class, which have incomes more dependent on employment and which tend to spend a large share of their income on debt service. The authors conclude that monetary policy should focus on its mandate, while fiscal and social policies should address widening inequalities. To be read in conjunction with the [Bruegel paper on the risks of ultra-loose monetary policy for financial stability](#), referenced in TTR23.

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

The Banking Union: state of art

by Andrzej Reich and Stefan Kawalec

30 June 2015

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

The authors trace the process that led to the Banking Union, arguing that the integration of the EU banking market began much earlier than the June 2012 European Council and the entry into force of the Banking Union Regulation in November 2013.

Centre for European Policy Studies

The QE placebo

by Daniel Gros

12 June 2015

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

After pointing out several surprising coincidences and contradictions that arise in nearly every aspect of the QE debate, Daniel Gros concludes that evaluating the policy's effectiveness is more of an art than a science, which leaves plenty of room for distortion and bias.

SAFE - Sustainable Architecture for Finance in Europe

Regulatory influence on market conditions in the Banking Union

by Tobias Tröger

2 June 2015

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

This paper looks into the specific influence that the Banking Union will have on (future) bank client relationships. It shows that the intended regulatory influence on market conditions in principle serves as a powerful governance tool to achieve financial stability objectives. From this vantage, it analyses macro-prudential instruments with a particular view to mortgage lending markets. In gauging the impact of the new European supervisory framework, it finds that the ECB will lack

influence on key macro-prudential tools to push through more rigid supervisory policies vis-à-vis forbearing national authorities. Furthermore, this paper points out that the current design of the European bail-in tool supplies resolution authorities with undue discretion.

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

The balance of power over the EU budget: European expenditure since the Lisbon Treaty

by Giacomo Benedetto [@ggbenedetto](#)

June 2015

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

This paper shows what the effect of the Lisbon Treaty has been on the amounts of money allocated to different areas of spending in the EU budget. How has the Treaty changed the powers of the EP and of the national governments to implement their preferences in terms of who gets what from the budget? In the annual negotiations on the EU budget, spending has become more constrained. The powers of the EP are reduced, the budget becomes more inflexible and the rules of the Lisbon Treaty have reduced the amounts available to spend compared to what would have occurred under the previous rules.

The usefulness of the scoreboard of the macroeconomic imbalances procedure in the European Union: potentials for reform

by Tobias Knedlik [@TKnedlik](#)

June 2015

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

Due to the financial crises in several EU Member States, the EU has constructed a scoreboard of economic indicators to be used as an early warning system; future financial crises must be revealed at an earlier stage. The new scoreboard follows a 'one size fits all' approach, but research shows that country specifics makes early warning systems more accurate if they allow for different thresholds. This analysis illustrates the advantage of more specific early warning systems for different country groups within the EU.

Institute of International and European Affairs

Submission on analytical note "Preparing for next steps on better economic governance in the euro area"

by Michael G. Tutty [@mgtutty](#)

26 June 2015

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

This was the response - dated March 2015 - of the IIEA Economic Governance Group to the Analytical Note, "Preparing for next steps on better economic governance in the euro area", published on 12 February, by the President of the European Commission Jean-Claude Juncker, in close cooperation with Presidents Tusk, Dijsselbloem and Draghi. The note was a preparatory step towards the 5 Presidents' [Report](#) presented at the June European Council.

Notre Europe - Jacques Delors Institute

Improving EMU: our recommendations for the debate on the five presidents report

by Yves Bertoncini [@ybertoncini](#), Henrik Enderlein [@henrikenderlein](#), Sofia Fernandes, Jörg Haas [@jorg_haas](#) and Eulalia Rubio

15 June 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (12 p.) and in [French](#) (14 p.)

This paper put forward some principles to address the eleven questions on economic governance in the euro area listed in the February 2015 Analytical Note. The authors derive their approach from the principle that we need as much additional integration as necessary for the effective functioning of EMU, but as little as possible.

Terra nova

Pour un gouvernement économique européen et démocratique

by Patrick Dollat

8 June 2015

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

This paper from Terra nova aims at advancing the debate on a «[Manifeste pour une union politique de la zone euro](#)» and presents 16 proposals for reform of the euro area governance, including debt mutualisation, euro treasury bills and other wide-ranging institutional reforms.

Tænketanken EUROPA

På vej mod en bedre euro - Forslag til et stærkere økonomisk samarbejde [Towards a better euro - Proposals for a stronger economic cooperation]

by Jan Høst Schmidt [@JanSchmidtEC](#)

23 June 2015

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

This paper notes that recent developments in policy, notably by the ECB, have restored financial stability and improved the governance of the euro. What is missing, however, is political ownership of these policies in Member States, as it appears from the low rate of implementation of the country-specific recommendations adopted by the European Council. As treaty reform is not likely in the near future, the author concludes that domestic political ownership could be improved through higher involvement of national parliaments in the discussion of economic policy.

LUISS School of European Political Economy

Europe and the IMF: nec sine te, nec tecum ...

by Fabrizio Balassone and Marco Committeri

June 2015

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

Five years into the crisis European economic governance is much stronger, and institutions and procedures for crisis management are in place and operating. It seems that the EU and the euro area would be less in need of external help should they be confronted with new crises in the future. However, some excess rigidity remains in the mechanism governing the provision of financial support and the euro continues to be a "money without a state".

Policy Network

Supporting investors and growth firms

by Thomas Aubrey, Renaud Thillaye [@RThillaye](#) and Alastair Reed

9 June 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (97 p.)

This publication focuses on how the Capital Markets Union might lead to tangible gains in investment and jobs growth. It is based on a micro analysis of the challenges faced by growth and innovative firms in six large Member States. The report proposes a bottom-up policy agenda to complement the EU's approach, focused on improving the tax, legal and business support environment for investors and firms.

SECTION 3 - EU MEMBER STATES

AUSTRIA

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

Was bedeutet "resiliente" Sicherheitspolitik? Der Versuch einer politischen Kontextualisierung

by Jan Pospisil and Johanna Rodehau-Noack

3 June 2015

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

Resilience is a comparatively new security concept; it has, however, already made its way into policy papers and strategies of national and international security policy actors – also in Austria. This policy paper addresses the political implications of a "resilient" security policy with a comparison of the three concepts of human security, comprehensive security and resilience. The insights of this comparison point against the often raised assumption that resilience implies a pullback of the state in security policy and a shift of focus on smaller societal entities.

BULGARIA

Институт за икономическа политика (Economic Policy Institute)

The next EU challenges in front of the Bulgarian economy

by Yassen Georgiev (ed.)

June 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (91 p.) and in [Bulgarian](#) (99 p.)

Revised papers from a 2014 conference, with chapters on the implications for Bulgaria of the Single Supervisory Mechanism and TTIP.

DENMARK

Center for Politiske Studier (Center for political Studies)

Risikoen for et japansk stilstandsscenario i Danmark [The risk of a Japan-like stagnation in Denmark]

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

20 June 2015

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

A review of factors behind the Japanese stagnation and how these apply to Denmark: on demographics, the fall in active population is not as steep, whereas the slow increase in productivity is comparable in the two countries.

Skattepolitikken før og efter valget [tax policy before and after the general election]

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

16 June 2015

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

A plea to reduce corporate taxation, seen as the main tool to increase productivity; the fall of revenue should be offset by slowing down the increase in public expenditure, regardless of the political orientation of government.

ESTONIA

Balti Uuringute Instituut (Institute of Baltic Studies)

Eesti ühiskonna integratsiooni monitoring 2015 [Estonian Integration Monitoring 2015]

by Kristina Kallas, Raivo Vetik, Jüri Kruusvall, Ellu Saar, Jelena Helemäe, Laura Kirss, Cenely Leppik, Külliki Seppel, Kats Kivistik and Pille Ubakivi-Hadachi

18 June 2015

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

The latest report from a recurrent research project sponsored by the Ministry of Culture, looking at various aspects of integration in Estonian society, in areas such as citizenship, political participation, public trust, national identity, inter-ethnic contacts, language skills and language use, the media and public sphere, employment, education, immigration. Based on surveys conducted in early 2015, plus additional focus groups of students, media experts and Russian-speaking young people.

FINLAND

Rahvusvaheline Kaitseuringute Keskus (International Centre for Defence Studies)

A centre-right government takes over in Helsinki: new Finnish defence and security policy in the making?

by Pauli Järvenpää [@PauliJarvenpaa](#)

12 June 2015

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

The Finnish parliamentary elections held on 19 April 2015 produced a profound change in government in Helsinki. Before the elections, it was widely expected that foreign and security policy issues would be hotly debated in the campaign, as Russia's actions in Crimea and the ongoing war in eastern Ukraine raised concerns among the Finnish population. However, this was not to be the case. Voters turned out to be even more concerned about social and economic issues caused by three years of recession, rising unemployment and a shrinking working-age population, rather than how Finland should face emerging threats to its national security.

FRANCE

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

Quand exporter aide à vendre chez soi

by Nicolas Berman, Antoine Berthou and Jérôme Héricourt

June 2015

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

This analysis investigates the correlation between exports and domestic sales, showing that falling demand on export markets affects has negative repercussions on a company's cash situation and domestic sales.

Fondation pour l'innovation politique

Politique économique : l'enjeux franco-allemand

by Henry d'Arcole and Wolfgang Glomb

24 June 2015

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

An enquiry into the roots of the difference in competitiveness between France and Germany, which the authors explain by referring to the centralised/decentralised state structure, as well as to historically rooted differences in the roles of the State and of monetary policy, in industrial policy and in vocational training.

GERMANY

Bertelsmann Stiftung

Lohneinkommensentwicklungen 2020 - Eine Vorausberechnung der Einkommensentwicklung in Branchen, Haushalten und Einkommensgruppen für Deutschland [Wage income developments 2020 - An advance calculation of income development in industries, households and earners for Germany]

by Michael Böhmer and Johannes Weisser

24 June 2015

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

Moving from the observation that the wage moderation of the past decades has been reversed, the authors forecast the expected income increase, by sector and income brackets, until 2020. They note that the different rates of income increase for different sectors and professional categories are bound to increase inequality, to the detriment of low-income employees, households with children and other categories; current redistribution measures do not help, they conclude.

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

Opening up the Franco-German dialogue - How trialogues can enhance European integration

by Claire Demesmay and Hans Stark

May 2015

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

As the EU confronts an unprecedented number of crises, it is crucial to open up the longstanding Franco-German tandem to other partners. The ten authors of this compendium explore ten such possible triangular configurations – involving, respectively, Greece, Italy, Poland, Romania, the Nordic countries, the UK, the Western Balkans, Turkey, the European Commission, and the European Parliament – and point to several other potentially productive "trialogues".

Entwicklung braucht Entschuldung / Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik (German Development Institute)

Schuldenreport 2015 - Höchste Zeit für die Lösung der Schuldenkrise! [Debt report 2015 - High time for resolving the debt crisis!]

April 2015

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

An exploration of codes of conduct as a tool for lending and borrowing countries, to avoid irresponsible lending and prevent global debt crises.

Deutsches Institut für Wirtschaftsforschung (German Institute for Economic Research)

A critical retrospective: German monetary union

by Karl Brenke

June 2015

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

Twenty-five years ago, East Germany adopted the deutschmark as its currency. It proved to be a disaster. With virtually no warning, East Germany's few productive factories and businesses were exposed to free market competition; industrial production collapsed in a way unparalleled in history. Nevertheless, for political reasons, introducing monetary union at the start of the process of system transformation was almost unavoidable. The aim was to seize the chance of reunification and push through monetary union to create an irreversible fait accompli. It buttressed the widespread illusion among the East German population that a strong currency would facilitate fast-track income parity on West German levels. This illusion encouraged excessive wage hikes which only served to intensify the shock of alignment in summer 1990, complicate economic renewal in eastern Germany, and increase the financial costs.

A stronger Union through crisis? 25 years of monetary integration in Europe

by Ferdinand Fichtner and Philipp König

June 2015

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

The authors argue that the compromise set down in the Maastricht Treaty—the speedy introduction of the single currency, on the one hand, and better cooperation in fiscal policy matters on the other—neither strengthened the institutional foundations of the monetary union nor advanced the political integration process. This resulted in economic divergence and tension in the euro area, which in recent years culminated in a severe crisis. It was only in response to this crisis that some of the necessary changes to the institutional structures of the monetary union were made. But using crises as the stimulus for deeper integration can lead to the loss of public support for the integration process.

POLAND

demosEUROPA - Centrum Strategii Europejskiej (Centre for European Strategy)

Obywatele zasobni w zasoby. Biała Księga zarządzania zasobami naturalnymi w Polsce. [Resource-rich citizens. The white paper on natural resource management in Poland]

by Krzysztof Blusz, Tor Håkon Jackson Inderberg and Paweł Zerka

17 June 2015

Link to the article in [Polish](#) (104 p.)

This report analyses the Polish system of natural resources management; it compares Poland with other European countries in terms of resource-efficient development and presents a selection of foreign best practices. Based on all that it formulates four key recommendations for the Polish government.

Globalne porządki: TTIP, Polska i globalizacja [Global orders: TTIP, Poland and globalization]

by Paweł Zerka

11 June 2015

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

A plea for Poland to take advantage of the TTIP as a means to guarantee security through the strength of the national economy, and as a catalyst for the internationalisation of Polish enterprises.

Polski Instytut Spraw Międzynarodowych (Polish Institute of International Affairs)

Rosja nie do zastąpienia - Alternatywne rynki dla polskiego eksportu [Russia - an irreplaceable market? In search of alternatives for Polish export]

by Artur Gradziuk and Damian Wnukowski

9 June 2015

Link to the article in [Polish](#) (95 p.)

Among non-EU states, Russia is Poland's most important trade partner. However, following Russian involvement in the Ukrainian conflict, since the beginning of 2014 a growing number of obstacles have prevented access to the Russian market for exporters from Poland and other EU countries. For Polish companies, missing the Russian export market can cause serious financial losses, threatening their stability. But stalled economic relations with Russia should be an incentive for Polish firms to diversify their export destinations, especially to non-European countries.

SPAIN

Barcelona Centre for International Affairs

The "naturalisation based on residence" process in Spain: differences that discriminate?

by Gemma Pinyol-Jiménez [@gemma_pinyol](#) and Elena Sánchez-Montijano

June 2015

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

This paper makes recommendation to counter the fact that the naturalization process in Spain allows different treatment between groups according to origin, language and culture, as well as in relation to factors such as age, gender or education. One of the main consequences of this process is the emergence of a feeling of rejection and hostility both towards the process itself and towards Spanish citizenship in general.

Real Instituto Elcano (Elcano Royal Institute)

The long road to Europe: Spain and the European Community, 1957-1986

by Charles Powell [@CharlesTPowell](#)

11 June 2015

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

This article seeks to commemorate thirty years of Spanish membership of the EU by providing an account of the evolution of the country's relationship with the European integration process from its origins to the moment of accession in 1986.

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

The impact of the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) on the Spanish regions: a preliminary analysis

by José Villaverde and Adolfo Maza

June 2015

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

This analysis sheds light on the potential economic effects of the TTIP at regional level in the case of Spanish regions. The effects of TTIP are going to be small, albeit positive, but not equally distributed among regions. The most developed regions are more likely to benefit than less developed regions.

SWEDEN

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

Svenskarna åter alltmer positiva till EU [The Swedes once more positive about the EU]

by Linda Berg [@lindaberg73](#)

June 2015

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

After twenty years of EU membership, the Swedish attitude towards the EU has grown more positive and more stable in all social groups. Today, every second Swede is in favour of Swedish EU membership. But at the same time, the Swedes are all the more convinced about remaining outside the Eurozone. Based on opinion surveys conducted by the SOM Institute, this study analyses the Swedish population's perceptions of the consequences of the EU membership and the effects of EU policies.

UNITED KINGDOM

Adam Smith Institute

No stress: the flaws in the Bank of England's stress testing programme

by Kevin Dowd

18 June 2015

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

In 2014, the Bank of England commenced a stress testing programme on the capital adequacy of major UK-based banks. It concluded that its results demonstrated the resilience of the banking system. This paper argues instead that the stress tests are significantly methodologically flawed, as they resorted to a single questionable stress scenario, inadequate data, poor metrics and unreliable models. It concludes that regulatory risk modelling should be replaced by bank governance systems that make decision-makers personally liable for the risks they take.

Bruegel

The UK's EU vote: the 1975 precedent and today's negotiations

by Emmanuel Mourlon-Druol [@manumourlon](#)

22 June 2015

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

The first referendum on the UK's continued EU membership took place on 5 June 1975 after nearly a year of renegotiations, and the 'yes' won with 67,2% of the vote. Notwithstanding obvious differences, the author suggests that today's renegotiations should bear in mind this precedent, and in particular consider (a) how much the UK government can get out of the negotiations, in particular with respect to potential Treaty changes; (b) why political marketing is central to the referendum's outcome; (c) how the UK administration's internal divisions risk derailing the negotiations; and (d) why the negotiations risk antagonising even the UK's best allies.

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

Could it be 'Brexpulsion' rather than 'Brexit'?

by Iain Begg

June 2015

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

The author argues that the scope for securing new exemptions for the UK is limited, not least because the list of those already in place is long and growing, while the number of countries which resist deeper integration in key policy areas is shrinking. Although some of the UK's closer allies in the EU are receptive to some of the reforms the British PM advocates, there have already been several instances when, faced with a choice between siding with the UK or favouring the wider European interest, they have chosen the latter. This conjunction raises tricky dilemmas around the UK's continued participation in the EU and the prospect that, if the UK is repeatedly rebuffed or is seen as wanting too many exceptions, there will be a de facto push towards the exit door.

Centre for Policy Studies

The poodle bites back - Select committees and the revival of parliament

by Andrew Tyrie

18 June 2015

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

A senior British MP's view on how, despite the anti-politics mood, the House of Commons is achieving notable success in reforming itself into a more effective institution, notably through the instrument of Select Committees. To be read in conjunction with CER's 10-point plan to strengthen Westminster's scrutiny of EU affairs, referenced in TTR25.

How to cut inheritance tax

by Adam Memon [@AdamMemonCPS](#)

17 June 2015

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

This paper advocates for making inheritance tax fairer by simplifying the system with a broader base and lower rate, and eliminating many of the existing inefficient tax reliefs.

SECTION 4 - EU POLICIES

JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS

Terra Nova

Accroître les compétences pénales de l'UE, une question de crédibilité politique

by Gabriel Arnoux

15 June 2015

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

A review of EU actions in the area of internal security and penal justice, with an analysis of the proposals for a "European FBI".

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

Monitoring anti-corruption in Europe. Bridging policy evaluation and corruption measurement

by Alexander Stoyanov, Alexander Gerganov, Andrea Di Nicola and Fabrizio Costantino

2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (198 p.)

Corruption proves bafflingly resilient, always finding new conduits for spreading; squeezed temporarily out of one public sector, it reappears in another. This report seeks to build bridges between the evaluation of anti-corruption policies and the measurement of corruption.

Istituto Affari Internazionali

Changing migration patterns in the Mediterranean region

by Ramzi Ben Amara

30 June 2015

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

The report of a conference on "Changing Migration Patterns in the Mediterranean Region" held in Tunis in April 2015. The first panel analysed the impact of the "Arab spring" on migration trends in the region. The second panel dealt with the case studies of Morocco, Turkey, and Tunisia. The third and final session concentrated on changing migration patterns, with a special focus on Tunisia.

Migration Policy Institute

Into the mainstream: rethinking public services for diverse and mobile populations

by Meghan Benton [@meghan_benton](#), Helen McCarthy and Elizabeth Collett [@migrationliz](#)

June 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (46 p.)

The [UPSTREAM Project](#) sought to examine how governments at all levels are taking up new integration challenges and whether this can be described as a move toward the "mainstreaming" of integration policies. This final report is a synthesis of the five country case studies—France, the Netherlands, Poland, Spain, and the UK—plus research at the EU level.

Beyond asylum: rethinking protection policies to meet sharply escalating needs

by Demetrios G. Papademetriou

June 2015

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

Report from the December 2014 Transatlantic Council on Migration. The deliberations highlighted the need for both national governments and international actors to respond proactively to instability and the inevitable displacement as it occurs, and to look beyond the traditional instrument of territorial asylum.

Vrije Universiteit Brussel - Institute for European Studies

The EU Blue Card - Is there a need for a more comprehensive approach?

by Martina Belmonte

June 2015

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

This paper reviews the implementation of the EU Blue Card (BC) Directive in Member States and offers some suggestions on how to improve its potential: firstly, it traces back the origin of the current partitioned approach in labour migration and the objectives that an EU labour migration policy should achieve; secondly, it reports on the content of the directive and its implementation in Member States; thirdly, there is an analysis of the weaknesses of the directive in terms of numbers of BCs issued and harmonization achieved; finally, recommendations are put forward on how to improve EU labour migration policy.

Zentrum für Europäische Integrationsforschung (Center for European Integration Studies) / West Africa Institute

Migration and civil society as development drivers - A regional perspective

by Ablam Benjamin Akoutou, Rike Sohn, Matthias Vogl and Daniel Yeboah (eds.)

June 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (181 p.), in [French](#) (196 p.) and in [Portuguese](#) (192 p.)

The 5th WAI-ZEI Conference "Migration and Civil Society as development drivers within a regional context" hosted experts from academia and integration institutions, mostly from West Africa and Europe, but also from the SADC region. Presentations and subsequent discussions centred on the impact of intra-regional migration on the regional labour market in West Africa, issues relating to the wellbeing of migrants, data deficits, labour markets, regional integration and culture, history of migration and mainstreaming remittances in the development agenda of both sending and receiving countries. This publication is the compilation of research work peer reviewed at the conference.

Sachverständigenrat deutscher Stiftungen für Integration und Migration (Expert Council of German Foundations on Integration and Migration)

Train and retain. Career support for international students in Canada, Germany, the Netherlands and Sweden

by Simon Morris-Lange and Florinda Brands

June 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (44 p.) and in [German](#) (58 p.)

International students are 'model immigrants' for the labour markets of their host countries. But although the majority would like to stay and work after graduation, many international students fail to find adequate employment. This study presents the results from the first international mapping of local support structures for the study-to-work transition of international students in Canada, Germany, the Netherlands and Sweden. It identifies shortcomings and recommends a joint effort of

higher education institutions, employers and policy-makers in order to improve job entry support for international students and retain more international graduates as skilled migrants.

Transatlantic Academy

An economic analysis of religion and religious violence

by Thomas Straubhaar

June 2015

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

A paper by an economist looking at religious phenomena. He argues that religiousness and religious violence are the consequence of specific economic, political, or social conditions but are more importantly the result of strategic goals of religious organizations, and of their efficiency in organizing and mobilizing their members.

TRANSPORT/TELECOMMUNICATIONS/ENERGY

Centrum für Europäische Politik (Centre for European Policy)

Exceptions to copyright - Should optional exceptions be made mandatory?

by Iris Hohmann and Matthias Kullas

1 June 2015

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

The European Commission has announced a reform of the copyright rules aiming at reducing the differences between national rules by way of harmonised exceptions. This paper assesses the benefits and problems of mandatory exceptions to copyright. Service providers want to offer their services across the Member States just as consumers wish to access works from other Member States. Different exception rules in the various Member States can be an obstacle in cross-border situations.

Centre for European Policy Studies

Measuring progress in eco-innovation

by Vasileios Rizos, Arno Behrens and Igor Taranic

11 June 2015

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

This paper explores the evolution of the concept of eco-innovation and emphasises its role in the EU 2020 strategy. It then provides an overview of the different measurement approaches and challenges in finding indicators for progress in eco-innovation. The paper describes the www.measuring-progress.eu web tool.

Institut français des relations internationales

Réseaux électriques et transition énergétique en Europe

by Michel Cruciani

June 2015

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

A review of developments and challenges related to the liberalisation of the energy sector in Europe, with a focus on networks. It identifies challenges ahead in terms of security of supply, the transition to renewables and other uncertainties.

Zentrum für Europäische Integrationsforschung (Center for European Integration Studies)

The Energy Union – A solution for the European energy security?

by Thomas Panayotopoulos

June 2015

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

The EU was created around energy, but sixty years later it does not have a common energy security policy. In this context dependency to gas imports coming from Russia is perceived as a real threat for the energy security of the EU, revealing vulnerabilities such as the lack of diversity of sources and diverging national policies. This paper analyses energy dependency, and questions whether the Energy Union is the right solution.

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

EU-Iran natural gas cooperation potential

by John Szabó

June 2015

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

An analysis of potential EU-Iran cooperation in natural gas trade, once sanctions imposed by the international community are lifted.

Oxford Institute for Energy Studies

The outlook for Azerbaijani gas supplies to Europe: challenges and perspectives

by Gulmira Rzayeva [@GulmiraRzayeva](#)

1 June 2015

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

This paper provides a comprehensive analysis of the obstacles which were surmounted in the development of the Shah Deniz field, not least those related to establishing export pipelines and marketing arrangements in Turkey, and (later) in Europe. The modest prospects for domestic gas demand growth and Azerbaijan's geographic location require that any future gas field development will have to rely on export infrastructure capacity to the primary target markets of Turkey and South and South East Europe.

Rahvusvaheline Kaitseuringute Keskus (International Centre for Defence Studies)

Nord Pool Spot and the Baltic electricity market: difficulties and successes at achieving regional market integration

by Emmet Tuohy [@ectuohy](#) and Kristiina Visnapuu [@EnergyInBaltics](#)

18 June 2015

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

In April 2010 the three Baltic transmission system operators agreed to create a common Baltic electricity market. According to the agreement, the three Baltic states would join the Nordic countries, Germany, and Great Britain in the Nord Pool Spot (NPS) exchange. This project has been of particular interest to the Baltic countries because of their continuing status as "energy islands" isolated from the rest of the EU. As a crucial step in the European Commission's Baltic Energy Market Integration Plan, joining NPS was intended to increase energy security in the region by providing a direct link to additional sources of supply from Nordic electricity markets, while also fostering competition in electricity markets dominated by national monopolies.

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

A new route for Russian gas, bypassing Ukraine - through Turkey. Policies and prospects

by Liana Jervalidze

June 2015

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

During his visit to Turkey on 1 December 2014, President Putin announced Russia's decision to discontinue the South Stream project since the initiative failed to gain the support of the EU. Moreover, Mr Putin declared Russia and Turkey's joint willingness to construct a new pipeline which would replace the South Stream, by-passing the Ukrainian infrastructure and realising Turkey's long-standing dream of becoming an energy hub. The author concludes that as a result Georgia may see its transit position consolidated or reduced in the region, depending on other actors' behaviour.

EMPLOYMENT/SOCIAL POLICY/HEALTH/CONSUMER AFFAIRS

Ústav mezinárodních vztahů (Institute of International Relations Prague)

Fostering the catching-up process of Central Europe: the need for an innovation-oriented Cohesion Policy

by Gilles Lepasant

June 2015

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

The future of the so far successful growth model of Central European economies, based on low-to-medium technology sectors, is under threat. The author argues that Central European countries have not undertaken sufficient reforms in the area of innovation, education and the labour market, and calls for stronger conditionality in Cohesion Policy funds to provide a stronger incentive for beneficiary countries to enforce reforms.

Notre Europe - Jacques Delors Institute

Regional integration and social cohesion: the European experience

by Eulalia Rubio

25 June 2015

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

The EU has traditionally been considered a model of regional integration for other regions of the world, but can lessons be drawn from the way it has dealt with social cohesion issues? This paper served as note of discussion at a high-level Latin American conference on Social Cohesion, organised by the Chilean Senate and the Eurosocial Programme.

Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin für Sozialforschung (Social Science Research Center Berlin)

Why do girls' and boys' gender-(a)typical occupational aspirations differ across countries? How cultural norms and institutional constraints shape young adolescents' occupational preferences

by Kathrin Leuze and Marcel Helbig

June 2015

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

Occupational sex segregation persists in all European and OECD countries; yet in some countries, it is more pronounced than in others. This paper seeks to explain these cross-national variations by analysing the realistic occupational aspirations of 15-yearold pupils in 29 EU and OECD countries.

Based on socialization and rational choice approaches it develops hypotheses for how cultural norms and national institutions might influence the gender-typing of occupations.

Policy Network / Foundation for European Progressive Studies

The social reality of Europe after the crisis

by Patrick Diamond [@PatrickDiamond1](#), Roger Liddle [@liddlro](#) and Daniel Sage [@disage86](#)
16 June 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (83 p.)

This report investigates the social reality of Europe in the wake of the global financial crisis. It looks at the extent to which post-crisis aftershocks are combining with long-term structural trends to impact on the wealth and well-being of Europe's citizens, and reshaping our societies, politics and economies. It also explores what both the EU and national governments can do to restore its strength, sustainability, cohesion and competitiveness.

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

Social housing in Europe

by Kathleen Scanlon, Melissa Fernández Arrigoitia and Christine Whitehead
June 2015

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

This paper analyses trends in the scale of social housing in countries across Europe; it looks at who lives in the sector and under what terms and conditions, and discusses some of the drivers behind these trends and implications for the future provision of social housing.

European Credit Research Institute / Centre for European Policy Studies

Recent trends in EU home ownership

by Sylvain Bouyon
16 June 2015

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

After five-to-six years of persistently weak economic performance and in the context of the recently enacted mortgage credit directive, it seems timely to look at recent home ownership behaviours across the EU, with special emphasis on the major changes. Recent macroeconomic data reveal three striking phenomena: highly diverse home ownership rates across countries; significant contractions in ownership in the UK and Ireland (especially among families); and marked contractions in ownership among poorer households in the EU15 since 2007.

Home ownership, labour markets and the economic crisis

by Sylvain Bouyon
16 June 2015

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

In recent decades, a growing body of academic literature has focused on the possible negative effects of high levels of home ownership, especially on labour markets. More-than-optimal levels of home ownership may impede the mobility of workers, resulting in higher unemployment rates in some European regions. Against that backdrop, a simple model was devised to test the relationship between home ownership, mobility and unemployment. Recent macroeconomic data published by Eurostat suggest that both the variables of mobility and home ownership have had a significant impact on the dynamics of unemployment rates across the EU.

Centrum für Europäische Politik (Centre for European Policy)

What to do with the Working Time Directive? Revision or abolition

by Sebastian Czuratiss and Klaus-Dieter Sohn

22 June 2015

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

Following several judgements by the ECJ, the existing Working Time Directive has become obsolete, particularly with regard to on-call duty. The EU Commission's previous attempts at revision have all failed; the social partners at European level have also been unable to agree on how to regulate on-call duty and future reform seems unrealistic. The authors argue, finally, that rules on the remuneration of on-call duty are in breach of the principle of subsidiarity and that the Working Time Directive should therefore be abolished.

ENVIRONMENT

Ecologic Institute

An effective governance system for 2030 EU climate and energy policy

by Nils Meyer-Ohlendorf [@EcologicBerlin](#)

15 June 2015

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

This paper discusses options and requirements for an effective governance framework for climate and energy policy beyond 2020. The authors assess the current framework, largely based on legislation; they find it overall successful, and warn that replacing it with a governance system largely based on political commitments with no legal basis risks undoing much of the success.

Polski Instytut Spraw Międzynarodowych (Polish Institute of International Affairs)

Financing climate actions: key to a Paris agreement?

by Marek Wąsiński [@mfwasinski](#)

8 June 2015

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

The Paris Climate Conference in December may be the last chance to deliver a global agreement on climate change. One issue that could be a game-changer for the negotiations and one that is inevitable to achieve global climate goals is so-called climate finance. The existing framework does not provide enough predictability and capacity to limit global warming to a maximum of 2°C. A clear mechanism for gathering public funds from developed countries and the inclusion of private investments is needed to secure reliable post-2020 climate actions.

Center for American Progress

From Bonn to Paris: navigating the course to an effective international climate agreement

by Gwynne Taraska

19 June 2015

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

In early June, the 196 parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change met in Bonn to continue crafting an agreement to rein in greenhouse gas emissions and build resilience to the effects of climate change. They will reconvene in Paris this December, when the agreement is slated to be finalized and adopted. The progress in Bonn was measured but genuine. It remains possible that the parties will succeed in creating an effective international climate agreement by the end of the meeting in Paris.

SECTION 5 - FOREIGN AFFAIRS

FOREIGN AND SECURITY POLICY

Carnegie Europe

The path to an upgraded EU foreign policy

by Pierre Vimont

30 June 2015

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

When it comes to foreign policy, the author argues, the EU has long been hampered by a structural division between the Union's institutions and its Member States, by its lack of a common understanding of what its external action should be, and by institutional barriers to the implementation of reforms. These challenges can be overcome, but reforms are needed, and include streamlining the administrative functioning of the EEAS, and enabling the EU to provide Member States with political analysis to anticipate global developments. The author was recently [designated](#) by President Tusk as his personal envoy to lead preparations for the EU-African conference on illegal migration and trafficking of human beings.

Centre for European Policy Studies

EU Naval Force EUNAVFOR MED sets sail in troubled waters

by Giovanni Faleg [@gioFALEG](#) and Steven Blockmans

26 June 2015

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

The EU's new naval force deployment in the Mediterranean, EUNAVFOR MED, has drawn criticism from international partners and the general public alike, because plans for a "boat sinking" operation raise fears about unacceptable levels of violence and collateral damage. This paper argues that despite clumsy public diplomacy and EUNAVFOR MED's perilous mismatch between its stated objectives and the absence of a clear strategy and mandate, the naval force could nevertheless mark an important turning point in the EU's security narrative. EUNAVFOR MED means that the Union is finally addressing the threats to security and the humanitarian tragedies in its southern neighbourhood.

Science and Technology Facilities Council / Royal United Services Institute

Serious infectious disease: challenges for security and defence

by Jennifer Cole (ed.)

June 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (123 p.)

This report from the sixth STFC-funded conference 'Serious Infectious Disease: Challenges for Security and Defence', held in January 2015, examines the impact of serious infectious disease and explores the potential role of the security and defence sectors.

Institut français des relations internationales

European defence planning and the Ukraine crisis: two contrasting views

by Magnus Petersson and Andres Vossman

June 2015

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

As the Ukrainian crisis continues, it is now clear that Europe is facing a new strategic environment and needs to adapt. These two papers present different approaches on the need to rethink the demand for collective defence and reassurance capabilities. On the one hand, an outlook based on the Estonian experience as a frontline state supports the idea to reinvest in heavy conventional capabilities. On the other hand, a more organizational approach, embodied by the concept of "joint force generation", proposes keeping the same force structure while binding European militaries together with common support platforms.

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

European Defence cooperation after the Lisbon Treaty - The road is paved for increased momentum

by Christine Nissen [@NissenChristine](#)

June 2015

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

This report analyses the changes made to the ESDP since the adoption of the Lisbon Treaty in 2009. It concludes that the changes brought about by the Lisbon Treaty provide for increased consistency of policies and instruments. This is primarily due to the new foreign policy system of an empowered High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and the creation of the EEAS. The road is also paved for more ambitious arrangements between the Member States. That said, several of the Lisbon provisions have not yet been fully realised in practice.

European Council on Foreign Relations

Europe's neighbourhood: crisis as the new normal

by Susi Dennison [@sd270](#) and Nick Witney

23 June 2015

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

This paper was submitted as a formal response to the European Commission consultation on the ENP, and calls for Europeans to wake up to the fact that, though their neighbourhood may be their geographical backyard, they neither own it nor control it. The old idea of bringing Europe's transformative influence gradually to bear on the 16 adjacent countries covered by the ENP needs to be overlaid with more hard-headed policies based on more focused and realistic priorities. The authors conclude that there is a strong case for splitting the European neighbourhood into East and South, with a Commissioner for each acting as a deputy to the High Representative.

Bursting the UN bubble

by Richard Gowan [@RichardGowan1](#)

30 June 2015

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

EU members and the US have invested increasing amounts of political capital in the UN, at the same time as Russia actively and China passively obstruct action on key issues at the Security Council. The author maintains that the EU and US still need to participate in the UN, highlighting some successes over second order issues and its use as a forum for rapprochement with Russia and China. But he contends that an effective Russian entanglement strategy has prevented

significant interventions from the UN on important global issues like Syria and Ukraine. To break this deadlock, the author suggests aligning the UN's power balance more closely to that of the world outside, most prominently by increasing, albeit informally, the role of Germany in the UN. The E3+3 negotiations with Iran could serve as a model for greater German engagement and signal to Moscow and Beijing that diplomatic games at the UN may put their most important European relationship at risk.

Leuven Centre for Global Governance Studies

Respect for human rights as a general objective of the EU's external action

by Annabel Egan and Laurent Pech [@ProfPech](#)

June 2015

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

This paper aims to provide an accessible and primarily descriptive introduction to the issue of respect for human rights as a general objective of the EU's external action. It concludes with some critical remarks on the EU's professed aspiration to establish itself as a global promoter of values and the recurrent challenges it has faced on this front and in particular the need to improve the coherence and effectiveness of its human rights external policy.

Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung

The 2016 German OSCE chairmanship: urgent need for reform under conditions of Russian veto power

by Dustin Dehez [@dustindehez](#) and Christian E. Rieck

2 June 2015

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

To be considered successful, the forthcoming German Chairmanship of the OSCE must not only strengthen trust in the organisation in Russia, but in all Eastern European states. Their concerns pertain to all three OSCE dimensions and require greater attention. The OSCE is not simply a platform for communication between the West and Russia alone.

Royal United Services Institute / International Centre for Counter-Terrorism - The Hague

Identifying foreign terrorist fighters: the role of public-private partnership, information sharing

by Tom Keatinge [@keatingetom](#)

June 2015

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

Whilst there has been much discussion and debate about who the travelling foreign fighters are, their motivations, and the threats they pose, the majority of this analysis has focused on the role of social media in this phenomenon. This paper considers the role that banks, armed with troves of financial data, might play in revealing the financial footprints of those travelling to join jihadi groups in Syria and Iraq or having returned home.

Polski Instytut Spraw Międzynarodowych (Polish Institute of International Affairs)

Ready to go? ISIS and its presumed expansion into Central Asia

by Anna Maria Dyner, Arkadiusz Legieć and Kacper Rękawek [@KacperRekawek](#)

22 June 2015

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

Although Central Asian states are vulnerable to the activities of radical Islamic organisations due to the weaknesses of their political and social systems—marked by authoritarianism, corruption, nepotism, and ethnic and religious tension, as well as their poor economic circumstances—interest

in ISIS among their citizens remains low. When some people in these countries do leave for Syria and Iraq, their decision is not rooted just in poverty but also in social exclusion and poor religious education. At the same time, citizens of far more affluent and often far less authoritarian European and Middle Eastern countries travel in higher numbers to Syria to join ISIS. Nonetheless, a potential increase in the popularity of radical Islamist factions will not only be a problem for the five countries of the region, where the authorities will try to use the phenomenon to strengthen their special services and raise funds for border protection, but also for Russia, especially since people from Central Asia are mainly recruited to ISIS on Russian territory and traverse it to reach the battlefields.

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

Der europäische Rüstungssektor. Zwischen nationaler Politik und industrieller Globalisierung [The European defense industry between national policy and globalisation]

by Christian Mölling

June 2015

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

Noting that European producers of defence equipment tend to globalise, rather than strengthening their position in Europe, the authors make a plea for a truly European defence industry overcoming national industrial policies in this area.

Robotik – ein Game-Changer für Militär und Sicherheitspolitik?

by Marcel Dickow [@MarcelDickow](#)

June 2015

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

A review of developments and issues in military robotics, asking pressing questions on whether machines are to decide autonomously on the use of force and, ultimately, on life and death. These development challenge the main tenets of international law at war, in particular the distinction between civilians and combatants.

Ulkopoliittinen instituutti (Finnish Institute of International Affairs)

Nordic-Baltic security and US foreign policy: a durable transatlantic link?

by Eoin Micheál McNamara, Magnus Nordenman and Charly Salonijs-Pasternak

June 2015

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

This paper set out to assess the strengths and weaknesses concerning the security link between the United States and the Nordic-Baltic region.

NATO

Pew Research Center

NATO publics blame Russia for Ukrainian crisis, but reluctant to provide military aid

by Katie Simmons, Bruce Stokes [@bruceestokes](#) and Jacob Poushter [@japoushter](#)

10 June 2015

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

A Pew Research survey of NATO country publics, who appear to blame Russia for the ongoing conflict in Ukraine. Many also see Russia as a military threat to other neighbouring states. But few support sending arms to Ukraine. Moreover, at least half of Germans, French and Italians say their country should not use military force to defend a NATO ally if attacked by Russia.

Polski Instytut Spraw Międzynarodowych (Polish Institute of International Affairs)

Still a "strategic" EU–NATO partnership? Bridging governance challenges through practical cooperation

by Nina Græger and John Todd

29 June 2015

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

The EU and NATO share a common interest in responding effectively to threats posed by Russia in the east and by Islamic extremist to the south of Europe. However, bilateral issues and the pursuit of national interests, especially those involving Cyprus and Turkey, as well as a general lack of strategic convergence have limited the effectiveness of both organisations' crisis-management capabilities. In times of a deteriorating security environment these limitations will be even more detrimental for Euro-Atlantic security. Poland and Norway, participants in both the EU and NATO missions and two principal countries of the [GoodGov project](#), are well positioned to break this institutional deadlock.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE

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

Do regional trade agreements really boost trade? Estimates for agricultural products

by Sébastien Jean and Jean-Christophe Bureau

June 2015

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

Simulations suggest that regional trade agreements (RTAs) have increased bilateral agricultural and food exports between partners by 30% to 40% on average, with a marked heterogeneity across agreements. RTAs are also found to slightly increase the probability to export a given a product to a partner country.

Consejo Argentino para las Relaciones Internacionales

Balance de la Cumbre entre la Unión europea y la Celac

by Joaquín Roy

June 2015

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

A mixed assessment, from an observer overseas, of the recent EU-CELAC summit. Despite the lack of significant progress, the reality of interdependence between the two blocks remains. The EU is CELAC's second largest trading partner.

TRANSATLANTIC TRADE AND INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP (TTIP)

Centre for European Policy Studies

This time it's different: turbo-charging regulatory cooperation in TTIP

by Peter Chase and Jacques Pelkmans

4 June 2015

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

Having identified the many levels of international regulatory cooperation, this paper shows that TTIP regulatory cooperation will be significant, but not ambitious, while political and legal limits on cooperation in both the EU and the US minimise the concerns. The paper incorporates comparisons with the relevant chapters of recent trade agreements the US and the EU have concluded, so as to clarify the approaches and degrees of ambition in this area. This comparison

suggests that the TTIP regulatory cooperation will probably be more ambitious in terms of commitments and have a wider scope than any of these agreements.

Peterson Institute for International Economics

Gains from harmonizing US and EU auto regulations under the transatlantic trade and investment partnership

by Caroline Freund [@CarolineFreund](#) and Sarah Oliver

June 2015

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

The authors evaluate the equivalence of automobile regulations in the US and the EU in terms of catastrophe avoidance and estimate the trade gains from harmonization. The UN 1958 Agreement on automobiles is used to quantify the trade effect of regulatory convergence. The removal of regulatory differences in autos is estimated to increase trade by 20% or more. The effect on trade from harmonizing standards is only slightly smaller than the effect of EU accession on auto trade. They conclude that the large economic gains from regulatory harmonization through the TTIP can improve productivity while lowering prices and enhancing variety for consumers.

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

Investor-state arbitration under TTIP: resolving investment disputes in an (autonomous) EU legal order

by Hannes Lenk [@HannesLenk](#)

June 2015

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

This report analyses the systemic challenges of inclusion of ISDS provisions in the TTIP, and their compatibility with the principle of autonomy in the EU legal order. The author argues that the risk of incompatibility of the ISDS framework can be alleviated by innovative drafting of the provisions.

Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung

Open markets, prosperity and global standards: the transatlantic trade and investment partnership

by Gunter Rieck Moncayo

3 June 2015

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

The TTIP negotiations are strongly criticized by many consumers in Germany, especially with regard to their (alleged) opaque nature, the creation of an International Investment Court and the supposedly lower level of consumer protection in the US. In view of Europe's waning economic influence, the author finds it imperative to seize the opportunity of a meaningful transatlantic economic area.

Notre Europe - Jacques Delors Institute

France: a hotbed of opposition to the TTIP?

by Elvire Fabry [@elvirefabry](#)

10 June 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (18 p.), in [German](#) (16 p.) and in [French](#) (18 p.)

It was initially expected for opposition to TTIP to come primarily from France, where public opinion is traditionally wary of trade liberalisation. But Germany has become the leading voice in opposition, while French public opinion teetered around a 50% approval rating in November 2014.

This paper analyses the evolution of the French debate on TTIP since the launch of negotiations two years ago in July 2013.

DEVELOPMENT

European Centre for Development Policy Management

European aid and development policies in a changing world: some personal reflections

by Bertil Odén and Lennart Wohlgemuth

June 2015

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

The global economic balance is moving from the members of the OECD towards the East and the South. By 2030, the South will be responsible for 70% of global consumption and 80% of the global middle class, of which two thirds is expected to live in Asia. Disparities in income and wealth are expected to grow further in the fast-growing economies and form a serious threat to stability.

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

Handels- und Investitionsabkommen als Beitrag zu nachhaltiger Entwicklung? Lehren aus dem Wirtschaftspartnerschaftsabkommen der EU mit karibischen Staaten

by Evita Schmieg

June 2015

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

A review of the EU-CARIFORUM free trade agreement of 2007, to draw lessons for on the viability of this type of agreement as a model for trade and development relations between unequal partners.

ENLARGEMENT PROCESS

Polski Instytut Spraw Międzynarodowych (Polish Institute of International Affairs)

Moldova's European integration: on sick leave?

by Stanislav Secieru [@StasSecieru](#) and Anita Sobják [@AnitaSobjak](#)

22 June 2015

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

The authors think Moldova's European integration has run out of steam. A number of corruption scandals and the formation of a weak minority government have radically turned the tide in terms of political stability, economic development and reform-oriented European policy. Keeping in mind Chisinau's demonstrated capabilities of quick progress over the past years, rather than retiring Moldova's integration prospects, the EU should continue to back the country after the June local elections to put an end to this ailing period.

ARAB REGION

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

Unstable authoritarianism - A new hybrid in Arab politics

by Rasmus Alenius Boserup and Jakob Wichmann

30 June 2015

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

Providing empirical evidence from a host of Arab countries including Egypt, Algeria, Syria, Libya and Iraq, this report identifies the contours of a new hybrid in Arab authoritarian governance and

provides reflections about the possible policy responses. A central point in the report is that while the current instability and reshaping of authoritarian governance in the region legitimately calls for anti-terrorism and security politics, the long-term development of an alternative governance model remains pivotal for Europe's long-term security concerns.

European Council on Foreign Relations

Responding to an assertive Gulf

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

24 June 2015

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

In the aftermath of the 2011 Arab uprisings, the six GCC states, but notably Qatar, Saudi Arabia and UAE, have dramatically increased their assertiveness across the Middle East, engaging in unprecedented military, political and economic interventions. But despite this increased significance, the EU Member States continue to look at the Gulf States through the lens of opportunity, focusing on deepening commercial and defence ties. European states should now think about developing a more coherent approach towards the region that can cement important ties at the same time as addressing differences.

ARTIC REGION

European Union Institute for Security Studies

Arctic security matters

by Juha Jokela [@JuhaJokela1](#)

17 June 2015

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

This report draws on a growing body of policy and academic analysis dealing with Arctic matters, and focuses on old and new challenges shaping the 'topography' of the Arctic's political and security landscapes. The aim is to identify and analyse key trends and drivers affecting ongoing developments, as well as to map out feasible options to address challenges.

BELARUS

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

Will Belarus fully benefit from the Eurasian Economic Union?

by Sierż Naūrodski and Uladzimir Valetka

June 2015

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

Is regional cooperation and tightening its relationship with Russia beneficial to Belarus in the long run? Having analysed the recent trends in trade, labour and capital flows, the authors question the benefits the Union could bring to Belarussian economy within its current macroeconomic and institutional framework.

CHINA

Chatham House - The Royal Institute of International Affairs

Enhancing engagement between China and the EU on resource governance and low-carbon development

by Bernice Lee, Nick Mabey, Felix Preston, Antony Froggatt and Siân Bradley

23 June 2015

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

Despite a distrustful and less confident EU and a distracted China, this paper argues that improved EU-China cooperation remains key to achieving shared objectives on climate change and resource scarcity.

EASTERN PARTNERSHIP

Institut für Europäische Politik (Institute for European Politics) / Centrul Român de Politici Europene (Romanian Center for European Policies)

Elements for an Eastern Partnership plus - A new association package for Moldova, Georgia and Ukraine

by Katrin Böttger and Christian Ghinea

17 June 2015

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

The Eastern Partnership summit in Riga on 21 and 22 May 2015 is the second one (after the Vilnius summit in November 2013) which brings on more criticism than engagement and also fails to deliver on overoptimistic expectations. This paper argues that while Eastern Partnership is a success, it has also reached its limits in the current form and thus a reshuffle is necessary.

IRAN

In the wake of the [agreement](#) on Iran's nuclear programme, it is worth to go back to some recent papers analysing the negotiating positions and dynamics.

Centro Argentino de Estudios Internacionales

Pre acuerdo con Irán: desmantelando el laberinto teórico

by Martín Rodríguez Ossés

2 June 2015

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

Various international relations-theoretical approaches applied to the Iran pre-agreement.

Dansk Institut for Internationale Studier (Danish Institute of International Studies) / Forsvarsakademiet (Royal Danish Defence College)

What can Iran gain by having a nuclear weapons program that threatens to destabilize security in the Middle East?

by Thomas Galasz Nielsen [@ThomasGalasz](#)

22 June 2015

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

But why is Iran following a nuclear path that may further destabilise the fragile security situation in the Middle East? It is to do with Iran's own perception of security risks, its desire for greatness in the region, and domestic challenges, caused in part by United Nations' sanctions, lack of

development and internal political power struggles. Iran balances cleverly on the edge of either further international isolation or becoming a significant local power.

MONTENEGRO

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

Employment of male and female members of Roma community in Montenegro - Legislation, employers' views, good practice

22 June 2015

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

A crucial lesson for the improvement of Roma employability, based both on the analysis of strategies/action plans and attitudes of employers in Montenegro, as well as on practical examples from Bulgaria, Great Britain, Serbia and Spain, is the need to develop an integrated approach, which would ensure sustainability and at the same time help resolve a series of other social needs in the area of education, healthcare, housing, civic and political participation and fight against discrimination.

SOUTH CAUCASUS

Türkiye Ekonomi Politikaları Araştırma Vakfı (Economic Policy Research Foundation of Turkey)

Contextualizing the Southern Caucasus: internal and external dynamics

by Selim Koru [@SelimKoru](#)

June 2015

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

The Southern Caucasus is a relatively small region, plagued with a web of political problems. To identify and resolve these issues however, it is important to see the region's place in global events. This paper contextualizes the Southern Caucasus with reference to the interests of regional and global actors. From this vantage point, the region's frozen conflicts are not only ethnic or religious differences within the Caucasus, but rather areas of contention for outside actors.

UKRAINE

Bruegel

The harsh reality of Ukraine's fiscal arithmetic

by Marek Dabrowski

12 June 2015

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

The reform process in Ukraine must be accelerated and better managed. A frontloaded fiscal adjustment is necessary to stabilise public finances and the balance-of-payments, and to bring inflation down. The international community, especially the EU, should offer sufficient financial aid backed by strong conditionality, technical assistance and support to Ukraine's independence and territorial integrity.

Centre d'études et de recherches internationales

Entre européanisation et fragmentation, quel modèle de développement pour le territoire ukrainien ?

by Gilles Lepasant

June 2015

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

The author argues that rather than being divided into two parts, Ukraine consists of many pieces of broken empires that all have good reasons to join in the state, as recent as this one may be. Indeed, its geography, electoral or economic, does not show a split between two blocks, but various lines of division that do not necessarily herald the breaking up of the state. Since the independence, this diversity had never been translated into new institutions: for several reasons, the reshaping of the centralized regime inherited from the Soviet era was deemed untimely by the country's political forces. Presented as a priority by the members of the Parliament elected in 2014, the reform of territorial government is being implemented while Ukraine's driving regions are either paralyzed or threatened by war.

Polski Instytut Spraw Międzynarodowych (Polish Institute of International Affairs)

Anti-corruption in Moldova and Ukraine: a V4 handbook of best practices

by Anita Sobják [@AnitaSobjak](#)

25 June 2015

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

This paper offers concrete case studies from the Visegrad countries' anti-corruption policy tracks and proposes solutions on how Moldova and Ukraine can best capitalise on the EU's expertise, financial assistance and political momentum in anti-corruption reforms to minimise risk.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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

Die Verteidigungspolitik der USA. Grundlegende Trends und ihre Auswirkungen auf das transatlantische Verhältnis

by Marco Overhaus [@moverhaus](#)

June 2015

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

A review of US defence policy as shaped by internal factors (public opinion, party stances, budgetary constraints), by President Obama's reluctance to use force, and finally by the longer term transformation agenda pre-dating Obama. This agenda focuses on enhanced technological capabilities, and accepts cuts in traditional forces. These developments open new possibilities for transatlantic cooperation but also for tension between partners.

SPECIAL FOCUS: "BEAR IN THE BACKYARD!" - OR HOW THINK TANKS LOOK AT RUSSIA

Barcelona Centre for International Affairs

Self-inflicted marginalization? Illiberal Russia in search for its own reality

by Andrey Makarychev
June 2015

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

This paper questions one of key arguments of Kremlin's political philosophy claiming that the post-1991 system of international relations was discriminatory and disadvantageous to Russia. It also sketches the contours of an alternative international order Russia longs for, and then argue that this drastic alteration in Russia's foreign policy can be explained within the framework of deep changes in the structure of Russian political discourse, and in particular the role of performative elements appealing to emotions, as opposed to rational calculus.

Chatham House - The Royal Institute of International Affairs

The Russian challenge

by Keir Giles, Philip Hanson, Roderic Lyne, James Nixey, James Sherr and Andrew Wood
4 June 2015

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

The West has yet to absorb the full implications of Russia's descent into authoritarian nationalism. This report argues that Western governments need to think much more deeply about their level of support for Ukraine; how to respond to future crises; and above all, how Russia can be managed over the long term for the greater security of Europe.

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

Russia of the 2010s - How to live with it and how to outlive it

by Vladislav L. Inozemtsev
4 June 2015

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

This paper suggests that the Russia of Vladimir Putin's new term in power, as a system, differs profoundly from the country the West was dealing with in the previous decade. Russia's transition from a promising Westernized nation into an aggressive authoritarian regional power is nearing completion. Western powers should therefore concentrate on two things: elaborating appropriate – and realistic – political attitudes toward today's Russia and creating an agenda for dealing with a post-Putin Russia that may arise in the distant future.

Wilfried Martens Centre for European Studies

Muzzling the bear: strategic defence for Russia's undeclared information war on Europe

by Salome Samadashvili
June 2015

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

This paper analyses the main elements of Russia's vast, well-integrated and well-organised information warfare capabilities. It also deciphers the main messages of Russia's propaganda machine in the West, concentrating on Russia's efforts to undermine faith in liberal values and legitimise its claim to former constituent parts of the USSR. The paper examines how Russia is using its allies in European business and political circles to spread its message. It also provides

recommendations for policymakers and non-governmental actors, with a view to countering Russia's propaganda.

Prague Security Studies Institute

The pro-Russian disinformation campaign in the Czech Republic and Slovakia

by Ivana Smoleňová

9 June 2015

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

This paper provides a brief overview of the pro-Russian disinformation activities in the Czech Republic and Slovakia, identifies frequently used narratives, and brings attention to the similarity of arguments and messages used by a pro-Russian media with no formal links to Russia, versus media that are founded and funded by the Russian Federation.

Ulkopoliittinen instituutti (Finnish Institute of International Affairs)

Russia's hybrid war in Ukraine: breaking the enemy's ability to resist

by András Rácz

June 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (104 p.)

This report aims to seek answers to two main research questions. First, what are the main features and characteristics of Russia's hybrid warfare as conducted in Ukraine? Derived from the first, the second research question is focused on the operational prerequisites for the Russian hybrid war. In other words, is the Russian hybrid war a universal warfare method deployable anywhere, or is it more country or region-specific?

Российский совет по международным делам (Russian International Affairs Council)

Russia and the Visegrad Group: the Ukrainian challenge

by L. N. Shishelina, A. V. Drynochkin, L.S. Lykoshina and Y.A. Scherbakova

June 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (73 p.) and in [Russian](#) (81 p.)

A Russian perspective, focusing on the Visegrad countries. In this paper, it is "the Eastern Partnership policy that triggered the Ukrainian crisis", and "the Visegrad Four have taken on responsibility for the eastward enlargement of the EU, having become its members".

Istituto per gli Studi di Politica Internazionale

Beyond Ukraine: EU and Russia in search of a new relation

by Aldo Ferrari

8 June 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (123 p.)

Due to the Ukrainian crisis, relations between the EU and Russia hit rock bottom, the lowest point from the end of the Cold War. Indeed, it is crystal clear that today's dispute is nothing but the latest chapter of a long story of misunderstandings and conflicting strategies on the post-Soviet states of Eastern Europe and South Caucasus. The further deepening of this cleavage would inflict serious damage on all interested parties: the EU, Russia and several post-Soviet states. Why is Ukraine so important both for EU and Russia? What are the real origins of the current crisis that brought to an open confrontation between Russia and the EU? What is the rationale behind Russia's firm opposition to a further NATO enlargement? What are the viable options to escape the fate of a new 'Cold War'?

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

Will China and Russia form an alliance against the United States?

by Huiyun Feng

15 June 2015

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

This report suggests a "threat-interest model of partnership" to examine the evolution of Sino-Russian relations after the Cold War. It argues that despite the ideological, material and strategic differences between the two nations, the convergence of threat perceptions regarding the US has pushed China and Russia to form a "soft alliance" against the US. The future of Sino-Russian relations still largely depends on the policies of the US and Europe towards China and Russia. It is time for the US and Europe to consider resetting their relations with China and Russia before it is too late.

REGARDS CROISÉS

HUNGARY IN THE MEDIA, SEEN FROM GERMANY

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

Hungary in the media, 2010–2014 - Critical reflections on coverage in the press and media

by Klaus von Dohnanyi, Ágnes Gelencsér, Dániel Hegedüs and Gereon Schuch
11 June 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (25 p.) and in [Hungarian](#) (30 p.)

A paper from a standing DGAP working group on German-Hungarian relations. It compares outside media reports with a careful analysis of the Hungarian context, and comes to the conclusion that "due to misunderstandings, mistakes, omissions, and political prejudice in reporting, it is no longer possible to judge to what degree the developments in Hungary in fact contradict European democratic values [...]".

THE GERMAN DEBATE ON TTIP, SEEN FROM FRANCE

Institut français des relations internationales

Le débat du TTIP en Allemagne

by Gabriel Felbermayr
June 2015

Link to the article in [French](#) (31 p.) and in [German](#) (29 p.)

The German economy is characterized by a very high degree of international openness – much more so than in other European countries such as France. Its economic success hence largely depends on the intensity with which it trades with the rest of the world, and in particular the US who play a crucial role. Against this backdrop, it would seem logical that Berlin would welcome signing a free-trade agreement between the US and the EU. Such an agreement is yet far from being unanimously approved. Within the EU, it is in fact in Germany that TTIP is met with the greatest interest, but also with the greatest rejection.

ALL ROADS TO ROME...

Notre Europe - Jacques Delors Institute

The Vatican's outlook on Europe: from firm encouragement to exacting support

by Sébastien Maillard [@seb_maillard](#)
2 June 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (14 p.) and in [French](#) (16 p.)

This paper states that relations are changing between a largely secularised Europe and a less Euro-centric Catholic Church, under the pontificate of the first pope from the Southern Hemisphere.

A VIEW FROM FINLAND TO THE MEDITERRANEAN

Ulkopoliittinen instituutti (Finnish Institute of International Affairs)

Fear of migration: is the EU's Southern Neighbourhood Policy fading away?

by Mari Neuvonen

June 2015

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

The EU's neighbourhood policy (ENP) is dominated by an agenda aimed at controlling migration towards Europe, which was not the original purpose of the policy. Europe's Southern Mediterranean partners, unwilling to police the migration efforts, have requested the EU to increase the means for legal migration. Currently, the EU is preoccupied with plans to launch military operations targeting traffickers, to further increase patrols and to share the burden originating from the southern migration more equally among the Member States. The author finds that the ENP seems to be fading away, much like the general policy framework for the EU response to the developments in its southern neighbourhood, as the envisaged EU action is largely taking place outside of it.

THE EU POSITION ON THE ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CONFLICT, COMMENTED FROM ISRAEL

Institute for National Security Studies

EU foreign policy: a reflection of the systemic crisis

by Shimon Stein

21 June 2015

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

Against the background of the EU's internal and external crises, and with only limited internal European consensus regarding issues of foreign policy, at least on the strategic level, prominent in this context is the consensus regarding the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. This consensus, which is broader than what elements within the Israeli political system would like to believe, is based on the all-encompassing European support of international law as a guiding principle in international relations. This principle constitutes the lowest common denominator unifying all Member States, and is the basis for the sweeping opposition against the Israeli occupation and Israel's settlements policy in the West Bank, which are regarded as issues on which EU members can demonstrate broad agreement.
