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THINK TANK REVIEW

Issue 12
April 2014

Dear Readers,

Welcome to issue 12 of the **Think Tank Review** compiled* by the Council Library. It references papers published in March 2014. As usual, we provide the link to the full text and a short abstract.

A lot of attention from think tanks goes to the European elections on 22-25 May; we found analyses - some of them partisan - taking stock of the growing politicisation of European Parliament elections, looking for example at the role of European political parties, but also others slightly qualifying that finding and contrasting it with the standard "second order" model.

The EU response to the crisis continues to be a focus of think tank work, with analyses on the Economic and Monetary Union, the banking union and a parallel with the EMS crisis in the 1990's. We found papers on 'macro' aspects such as deflation, FDI, structural imbalances, together with views on social policy and labour market issues and, more generally, the social impact of the crisis, which constitutes the special focus of this Think Tank Review, as reflected for example in papers advocating a social union or a "grand bargain" for Europe.

On Member States, we found some coverage by think tanks of elections in Hungary, but also an analysis of bilateral summits and papers on Belgium, Cyprus and Latvia, complemented by regards croisés spanning across France, Germany, Poland and Hungary.

The sectorial policies represented in this month's Review include defence, development, industry and competitiveness, and migration, the latter with case-studies of various countries; the external relations section features both analyses of the broad strategic picture and more specific perspectives, for example on the role of EU delegations in third countries and on the effectiveness of EU sanctions. Predictably, we found analyses on Ukraine from a variety of sources in the US, Spain, Germany, Portugal.

One of the subjects touched in this month's review, i.e. women's presence in EU Delegations, fits well with the focus of the [March BEPA Monthly Brief](#), with articles on women in entrepreneurship; gender in conflicts; the role of Arab women post-transition; and an analysis of EU gender policies.

The current Review and past issues can be downloaded from our [informal Central Library blog](#). As always, feedback is welcome at central.library@consilium.europa.eu.

The next Review will be out in May 2014, with papers published in April.

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SECTION 1 - EU INSTITUTIONS, POLITICS, ECONOMICS

EU institutions

ELCANO ROYAL INSTITUTE

The 2014 elections to the European Parliament: towards truly European elections?

by Daniel Ruiz de Garibay

19 March 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

Despite the grown salience of European issues in the media, and the new role of the parliament in the election of the Commission's President, there are obstacles to truly European elections, the author points out. First, it is not that simple to find candidates to contest the elections; second, a highly EU-centred political campaign could backlash, and give rise to a highly Europhobic parliament; finally, by politicising the elections, both the EP and the Commission may see their institutional role undermined and/or put to question.

EGMONT – ROYAL INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Vingt-huit scrutins nationaux pour un Parlement en constante évolution

by Michel Theys

22 March 2014

Link to the article in [French](#)

This paper revisits the history of the EP since the first election of MEPs by direct universal suffrage in 1979, and links it to the upcoming EP election. There has been a constant progress in acquiring further competences by the representatives of EU citizens. However, there is a great risk that Europeans will shun the next European elections like never before.

FOUNDATION FOR EUROPEAN PROGRESSIVE STUDIES

In the name of political Union – europarties on the rise

by Ernst Stetter, Karl Duffek and Ania Skrzypek (ed.)

12 March 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

This collection of articles paints a panorama of the EU political and partisan landscape, with a focus on the European Socialist Party. It highlights the internal transformations of the europarties, their campaigns and the issue of europarty membership. The authors argue that there is a potential for further development of the europarties and that a progressive family has a full potential to become protagonist of this process.

Next European Commission's challenges

by Maria João Rodrigues

28 March 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

This article identifies the crucial challenges of the next European Commission. According to the author, these are the overcoming of the current crisis, gaining the citizens' support for the EU, installing a new sustainable growth model, coping with demographic trends and migration movements, dealing with the external tension in the EU neighbourhood. Several organized processes in the EU should be redirected with this purpose, the author concludes.

Renewing EU institutions: timeline – players – play

by Pat Cox

27 March 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

This paper considers the complexities of the upcoming changes following the EP elections. It maps the certainties, predictions and unknown elements as they currently stand, drawing on legal texts, recent experience of institutional renewal in the EU. Throughout, a major question looms: will a political Rubicon be crossed or will the familiar figures and processes reemerge?

ISTITUTO PER GLI STUDI DI POLITICA INTERNAZIONALE

Where have all the women gone? Women in EEAS and EU delegations

by Tereza Novotná

10 March 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

This brief examines the recruitment of women into leading positions in the EEAS, both in the Brussels HQ and in EU Delegations. Its main findings point to the EEAS key decision-making positions being dominated by men, with currently only three female top managers and with only between 11.8% to 16.7% of women in the EEAS senior management. Although the numbers of female Heads of EU Delegations increased from 15.1% in 2010 to 23.2% in 2014, parity with male EU ambassadors remains far off.

Member States and European economies

CEPII

The development of EU and EU Member States' external competitiveness

by Angela Cheptea, Charlotte Emlinger, Lionel Fontagné, Gianluca Orefice and Olga Pindyuk

March 2014

Link to the document in [English](#)

This paper analyses competitiveness issues using recent data, and shows that the global financial crisis has taken a toll on European producers that before 2007 were maintaining their market positions. The performance of EU industrial products on world markets is also affecting services, which often are embodied in these products. On the other hand, there is room for a rebound, and competitiveness in services will be an important determinant of future European industry. According to the authors these findings call for more progress in European integration in services.

DEMOS

"Looking beyond the financial impact of debt...": the borrowers

by Joe Salter

26 March 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

This report shines a light on the UK's personal debt phenomenon from the bottom up, based on original surveys. Britain is often described as being in a 'debt crisis' - with outstanding personal debt currently standing at £1.4 trillion, and household debt double what it was ten years ago. The political narrative around debt has fallen into the trap of seeing it purely as a financial issue, which can be fixed through structural changes to the lending industry to make debt more 'affordable'. The analysis not only provides a more granular understanding of problematic debt, but also has lessons for how best to tackle it.

CENTRE FOR EUROPEAN POLICY STUDIES

The EMS crisis of the 1990s: parallels with the present crisis?

by Daniel Gros

March 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

This paper studies similarities between the EMS crisis of the '90s and the present euro crisis, to reflect on policies to apply to highly-indebted countries. It analyses the potential instability of high public debt within and outside a monetary union, and uses the case of Italy to compare the pressure on public finance coming from the crises. It concludes by using data on 'foreign currency' debt to disentangle expectations of devaluation/inflation from expectations of default.

ELCANO ROYAL INSTITUTE

Spain: foreign direct investment on the rise

by William Chislett

25 March 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

This paper analyses the gross foreign direct investment (FDI) in Spain in 2013. FDI increased 8.8% to €15.8 billion and net investment after deducting divestments was 36.3% higher at €11.9 billion. Both figures exclude special purpose entities and therefore reflect productive investment. FDI has long played an important role in the economy, and investment opportunities are growing.

La imagen de los países del sur de Europa según los tuiteros influyentes en economía política

by Juan Pizarro

25 March 2014

Link to the article in [Spanish](#)

The author states that the economic picture of Spain has improved in 2013. While the high unemployment rate still worries international experts, the debt and the banks disappeared from the centre of attention. Now the public discourse turns back to the question of what a post-crisis society could look like.

Freno al decrecimiento de la economía española

by Yerena Fernández Rebollo and Jesús Pardo Menéndez

5 March 2014

Link to the article in [Spanish](#)

This study analyses the strengths and weaknesses of the Spanish economy in the last quarter of 2013. It shows how on the positive side, there was a rise in domestic and external demand, changes in the financial system structure and a fall in risk evaluation. On the other side, certain disturbances and uncertainty concerning the influence of possible foreign scenarios remain.

KIEL INSTITUTE FOR THE WORLD ECONOMY

Lettland: Fit für den Euro?

by Klaus Schrader and Claus-Friedrich Laaser
March 2014

Link to the article in [German](#)

This paper analyses Latvia's entrance into the eurozone. It states that the country won't be a burden for the eurozone, but the single currency could be an obstacle for Latvia's economy. Latvia's past reforms and monetary policy led to a stagnation of living standard. Latvia is one of the EU's poorest Member States. The euro could be a handicap for its competitiveness in the world market, because the single currency would be overvalued, the authors argue.

FABIAN SOCIETY

Measure for measure. Economic indicators for a fair and prosperous society

by Andrew Harrop and Robert Tinker
12 March 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

This article revisits the methods of measuring economic progress. The global financial crisis of 2008 did not just reveal the structural defects UK's economy. It also laid bare the inadequacy of how government measured success, according to the authors. They set out proposals for 20 alternative measures of economic progress that most reflect the direction needed to achieve fairness, sustainability and long-term prosperity.

GERMAN INSTITUTE FOR ECONOMIC RESEARCH

Schwache Preisentwicklung und Deflationsgefahr im Euroraum: Grenzen der konventionellen Geldpolitik

by Kerstin Bernoth, Marcel Fratzscher and Philipp König
19 March 2014

Link to the article in [German](#)

The inflation rate in the eurozone is constantly on a low level. The authors argue that, on the one hand, this contradicts the goals of the ECB and, on the other hand, raises the danger to drift into deflation. This paper examines different possible measures that could be taken in order to prevent deflation. It concludes that not only the ECB has to act, but also financial and economic politics.

JERUSALEM FORUM ON REGULATION & GOVERNANCE

Strategic behaviour and crisis-driven change in regulation and governance of the European financial and economic system: from networks to hybrids

by Arnout Mijs
21 March 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

This paper explores the regulatory gaps asks despite having self-regulatory and decentralized instruments supposedly in place. Secondly, the paper looks at the new regulatory governance structures that have emerged in recent years for coordination of the European financial and economic system. The argument here is that attempts to curb strategic behaviour by banks and countries have entailed the introduction of some form of hierarchy at the supranational level, yet still in combination with strong network characteristics, thus creating or strengthening hybridity in regulatory governance.

Posted workers in the EU: state of play and regulatory evolution

by Kristina Maslauskaite

24 March 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

This paper analyses the Enforcement Directive on posting workers in the EU. The first section of the paper provides the background information and the state of play of posting today, recalling the arguments for and against posting and providing facts and figures. The second section presents the legal framework that has been governing posting since the adoption of the Posted Workers Directive in 1996. Finally, the third section analyses the weaknesses of the current framework and the new proposals enshrined in the Enforcement Directive.

ISTITUTO AFFARI INTERNAZIONALI

The "relative" importance of EMU macroeconomic imbalances in the macroeconomic imbalance procedure

by Daniel Gros and Alessandro Giovannini

25 March 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

This report explores the design and effectiveness of the Macroeconomic Imbalances Procedure (MIP) on the occasion of the recently published results of the "in-depth review" of the Commission. The authors note that the MIP is envisaged to warn of future crisis within the euro area, so it does not make sense to use absolute indicators or thresholds. Threats to the "smooth" functioning of the EMU come from countries which deviate from the average and the corresponding indicators should be forward-looking, as corrective policies cannot do anything about the past.

EMU / Banking Union

INSTITUT DER DEUTSCHEN WIRTSCHAFT KÖLN

IW-Bankenmonitor: Bringt die Bankenprüfung der Europäischen Zentralbank das Vertrauen in den Euroraum zurück?

by Markus Demary

March 2014

Link to the article in [German](#)

Before assuming its supervisory role in November 2014, the ECB will conduct a comprehensive assessment exercise that will involve 128 credit institutions. The exercise will comprise a supervisory risk assessment, an asset quality review and a stress test. It is important that these measures are carried out to guarantee confidence in the European banking sector. Thus, this paper reflects that the ECB should lay the foundation to ensure financial stability in the future.

BRUEGEL

Cross-country insurance mechanisms in currency unions

by Nancy van Beers, Michiel Bijlsma and Gijsbert T. J. Zwart

27 March 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

Joining a currency union has inherent "costs" in term of flexibility to adapt to macroeconomic shocks. This paper evaluates, with an empirical comparison of EU and US currency unions, the scope and functioning of cross-country insurance/risk-sharing mechanisms: the more asymmetrical the shock between members, the more useful such insurance.

European Central Bank accountability: how the monetary dialogue could be improved

by Grégory Claeys, Mark Hallerberg and Olga Tschekassin
3 March 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

The quarterly Monetary Dialogue (MD) between the president of the ECB and the European Parliament Economic and Monetary Affairs committee is the main vehicle for accountability of the ECB. This paper makes a comparison with equivalent accountability mechanisms in place at the Fed and the Bank of England, and looks into the dynamics of the MD in relation to forward guidance and quantitative easing. It also observes the MD after the establishment of the Banking Union and the role of the ECB as banking supervisor.

CENTRE FOR EUROPEAN POLICY STUDIES

Inflation-targeting, flexible exchange rates and macroeconomic performance since the great recession

by Thomas Barnebeck Andersen, Nikolaj Malchow-Møller and Jens Nordvig
March 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

This paper asks if inflation targeting (IT) conferred benefits in terms of economic growth on countries that followed this particular monetary policy strategy during the crisis period 2007-12. It argues that countries with an IT monetary regime with flexible exchange rates weathered the crisis much better than countries with other monetary regimes, predominantly countries with fixed exchange rates. "IT has been historically good and still is, even under the present crisis conditions, especially when accompanied by a flexible exchange rate system."

FRIEDRICH-EBERT-STIFTUNG

Ist die Bankenunion nur ein Placebo?

by Asmus Angelkort and Harald Noack
March 2014

Link to the article in [German](#)

This paper criticises that the Banking Union is not sufficiently far-reaching, as a part of the supervision of the financial market remains a Member States' domain. Furthermore, they see a problem in the non-participation of the UK in the eurozone's banking resolution regimes. The paper concludes with several proposals for a successful Banking Union.

INSTITUTO PORTUGUÊS DE RELAÇÕES INTERNACIONAIS

Pragmatismo e reforma numa UE mais coesa: a propósito da união bancária

by Luís Lobo-Fernandes
26 March 2014

Link to the article in [Portuguese](#)

The author examines the Banking Union. He revisits the German domination in the process and compares the European draft with the suggestions of Alexander Hamilton in 1787 concerning the US financial system. The possibility of further political integration as a consequence of the Banking Union gives the EU the chance to cope with several problems, namely in the fields of migration, energy, climatic change, organised transnational crime and terrorism.

How to fix the euro: strengthening economic governance in Europe

by Stephen Pickford, Federico Steinberg and Miguel Otero-Iglesias

March 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

This report examines why the EMU was so badly affected by the crisis, and assesses whether further changes need to be made to the structure of economic governance that underpins it. The euro was expected to make Europe economically stronger and more integrated and for most of its first decade the euro area grew quickly, coinciding with a period of very rapid world growth. But after the global economic and financial crisis that started in 2007 Europe ended up being the worst-affected region.

EGMONT – ROYAL INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

What future for the Eurozone? Combining discipline, solidarity and institutional reforms

by Xavier Vanden Bosch and Stijn Verhelst

22 March 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

This paper discusses the challenges that await policymakers in reforming the EMU. A balance between discipline and solidarity will have to be found, while institutional reforms should improve the eurozone's legitimacy and efficiency. The key decisions on EMU reforms will have to be made during the 2014-2019 parliamentary term, as the window of opportunity for major reforms is likely to be closed afterwards.

Is the EMU ready for future shocks? An overview of available backstops

by Xavier Vanden Bosch

12 March 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

In recent years much has been accomplished to make the EMU more resilient to banking crises, sovereign-debt crises or balance-of-payment crises. These substantial advances reflected a gradual, trial-and-error approach rather than a grand design that would have completely overhauled the EMU architecture. While flexibility and realism have advantages, complacency is a clear risk. With no roadmap to follow, efforts to complete the architecture of the EMU may fade with time.

Labour market

ECONOMIC POLICY INSTITUTE / HANNS SEIDEL STIFTUNG

Labour market trends in Bulgaria and the CEE region - overview and perspectives

by Ognian Hishov, Iwona Mertin, Yassen Georgiev, Dragomir Belchev, Zina Andreeva, Tsvetan Simeonov, Rossitsa Yankova and Annamaria Artner

5 March 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

This paper examines the Bulgarian labour market with its specific features like high youth unemployment, a discrepancy between labour demand and supply, and low internal mobility but strong external mobility. In addition, the demographic trends and the latest forecasts of the World Bank revealing a 40% drop in the population at working age by 2050, according to the authors it is clear that the labour market is about to face a complex new reality in the years to come.

EU Member States

ELCANO ROYAL INSTITUTE

Las relaciones estratégicas entre España y sus socios europeos: el futuro de las cumbres bilaterales con Alemania, Francia, Italia y Polonia

by Laia Mestres
14 March 2014

Link to the article in [Spanish](#)

The author argues that the frequency of bilateral summits with the biggest EU Member States, which has been a tool for the Spanish government to place itself as a key actor within the EU, has reduced since the beginning of the economic crisis. By that the Spanish capacity to shape European debates has diminished. If Spain wants to regain its influence on EU policy, it has to resuscitate the alliances with the four big Member States.

EGMONT – ROYAL INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

The Belgian parliaments and EU affairs: the reasons behind their limited involvement

by Xavier Vanden Bosch
26 March 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

Given their limited involvement in EU affairs, the Belgian parliaments, at the different levels of the Belgian federation, barely contribute to the legitimation process of the EU's actions. In order to strengthen their role, not only should governmental communication towards parliaments be improved, but parliamentary activities should also adapt to the confederal features of Belgium, argues the author.

INTERNATIONAL CRISIS GROUP

Divided Cyprus: coming to terms on an imperfect reality

14 March 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

This report explores the subject of possible settlement of the Cyprus division and argues that the solution should include the mutually agreed independence for the Turkish Cypriots within the EU. Such a realistic new approach could also be the best way to take advantage of Turkey's new political will for a settlement, Greek Cypriots' need for a dignified escape from economic trouble, and Turkish Cypriots' wish to be both in the EU and in charge of their own affairs. The feasibility of such an option depends on EU membership procedures and the voluntary agreement of the Greek Cypriots.

EU policies

EUROPEAN POLICY CENTRE

Sharing the same vision - The cornerstone of a new industrial policy for Europe

by Claire Dhéret
20 March 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

According to the author, the need to make the best use of the 2014 March European Council and to provide a clear vision of what a *European Industrial Renaissance* entails, is more than pressing. In this paper she argues that EU heads of state and government should seize the opportunity offered by the European Council to pave the way for an EU industrial policy providing the industry with an unambiguous and well-defined strategic plan for the decades to come.

INSTITUTE FOR EUROPEAN ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

Review of the balance of competences - agriculture. Response from the Institute for European Environment Policy

19 March 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

The UK government's balance of competences review has now taken evidence on 25 subject areas, including the six with the most relevance for the environment. This paper takes stock of the contributions by the Institute for European Environmental Policy, and considers what a possible UK renegotiation might mean for the environment.

Development policy

KONRAD ADENAUER STIFTUNG

Development cooperation in 2030

by Wolfgang Maier

18 March 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

According to the author, development policy will change more over the next decade than it did in previous decades. It will be less "development" and more "policy"; it will have a broader base and will become more complex; it will be more culturally sensitive and will include clearer strategic elements; and ultimately, it will no longer be "made by us".

Development cooperation in times of global power shift - thoughts on changing the concept of development

by Sebastian Barnet Fuchs

18 March 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

The concept of development in the future requires an honest culture of learning and should reward scrutiny, change and adaptation, this paper says. The belief in predictability and planning has too often proved to be an illusion in development cooperation. Donors and development organisations should admit mistakes and misjudgements, share and communicate knowledge of this, adapt their strategies, seek solutions locally, experiment more and more rigorously scientifically test things.

The value based approach of EU development assistance

by Andrea Ellen Ostheimer

18 March 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

Taking into consideration the strategic policy frameworks and their enhanced commitment to democratic values and principles, it can be noted that a paradigm shift within EU development policy has taken place. On policy level we see a more nuanced accentuation and emphasis on democratic governance and support to democratisation processes as well as a general strife for policy coherence for human rights and democracy.

Migration

MIGRATION POLICY INSTITUTE

The future of immigrant integration in Europe: mainstreaming approaches for inclusion

by Elizabeth Collett and Milica Petrovic

March 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

This report assesses the degree to which four European countries have mainstreamed integration priorities across general policy areas such as education, employment, and social cohesion. The report shows how approaches to mainstreaming in Denmark, France, Germany, and the UK reflect each country's distinct ethnic profile, diversity, and social traditions. It also offers suggestions for future policy development.

The two reports that follow are part of a series that explores the labour market integration of new immigrants in several European Union countries. For more information go to <http://www.migrationpolicy.org/>

A precarious position: the labour market integration of new immigrants in Spain

by Nùria Rodríguez-Planas and Natalia Nollenberger

March 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

This report assesses how new immigrants to Spain fare in the country's labour market, evaluating the conditions under which they are able to find employment, and their progress out of unskilled work into middle-skilled jobs. The report analyses Spanish Labour Force Survey data from 2000 through 2011, and the findings suggest that for many workers, finding middle-skilled work alone isn't enough, and suggests that integration policies could aim to help workers transition from the secondary to the primary labour market in order to find their way into more stable employment.

A tumultuous decade: employment outcomes of immigrants in the Czech Republic

by Daniel Mùnich

March 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

This report presents detailed labour market outcomes for immigrant groups in the Czech Republic, focusing on trends according to year of arrival, country of origin, gender, level of education, and sector of employment. The analysis, based on data from the Czech Labour Force Survey, suggests that the challenge of reducing obstacles to immigrant workers' progression into more skilled employment are worth significant policy attention.

CEPII

Immigrants and firms' productivity: evidence from France

by Cristina Mitaritonna, Gianluca Orefice and Giovanni Peri

March 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

Using micro-level data on French firms during the period 1995-2005, this report analyses the impact of an increase in local supply of immigrants on firms' immigrant employment and productivity. The findings show that immigrants may complement native workers, allow reallocation by skill in the firm and lower costs, and concludes that the effects could be beneficial for the firm and increase its productivity and profits.

BRUEGEL

The global race for talent: Europe's migration challenge

by Rainer Münz

4 March 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

Amid shifting worldwide demographic and economic trends, the pattern of international migration poses new questions. Europe has a unique challenge in its asymmetrical imbalance of labour supply-demand and growing social hostility to immigration. Migration requires long term policies spanning a time horizon well beyond and electoral cycle.

CENTRE FOR EUROPEAN POLICY STUDIES

What role for migration policy in the Ukraine crisis?

by Elspeth Guild, Sergio Carrera and Joanna Parkin

27 March 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

In light of the present Ukrainian crisis, this paper looks into EU tools for migration policy, like Mobility Partnerships (MP), which form part of the EU's Global Approach to Migration and Mobility and whether MP could be used credibly in Ukraine's case, avoiding the pitfalls of the EU's stance during the Arab Spring.

EGMONT – ROYAL INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

From Lampedusa to the Post-Stockholm Programme: difficult European solidarity in the field of migration

by Corinne Balleix

19 March 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

The author argues that solidarity among Member States concerning migration appears fragile and under threat, a situation that could jeopardise the founding principle of the free movement of persons in the EU's space. The recent solidarity crisis among Member States was solved by an increased externalisation of the European migration policy. Consequently, for the EU to live up to its values, it will have to prove itself generous towards third countries, she concludes.

GERMAN MARSHALL FUND OF THE UNITED STATES

Speed bumps and accelerators: emerging issues in transatlantic border management

by Patryk Pawlak

11 March 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

This paper analyses some of the most pressing challenges to border management policies in the transatlantic area, namely Syrian refugees at the EU borders, drug traffic penetrating the US-Mexican border and migration motivated by economic reasoning. It also looks at border management in a broader context whereby borders represent the last line of "defence" before an external issue becomes an internal problem in the transatlantic area.

Energy and environment

INSTITUT DER DEUTSCHEN WIRTSCHAFT KÖLN

Erhöhung der EEG-Kosten als Investitionshemmnis für stromintensive Unternehmen

by Hubertus Bardt

10 March 2014

Link to the article in [German](#)

The reform of the support for renewable energies is discussed in German and European politics and the reduced EEG-surcharge for energy-intensive users is questioned. The European Commission has proposed new state aid rules, which will have impact on the investments for energy-intensive companies in Germany. According to this paper the energy policy would lead to relocations and expand the investments abroad. This would have negative consequences on the entire value chains and would decrease the innovative capacity of downstream industries.

EGMONT – ROYAL INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Re-designing the European climate and energy policies post-2020

by Clémentine d'Oultremont

28 March 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

Ensuring the sustainability, security and cost-competitiveness of energy supplies for the EU citizens are the main objectives of the EU climate and energy policy, which remains high on the EU agenda. Taking into account the changing energy dynamics, this paper analyses thus the state of play of these objectives today in order to better understand how the 2030 framework for climate and energy policies should be designed.

FRIEDRICH-EBERT-STIFTUNG

Una transformación energética mundial

by Nina Netzer and Bärbel Kofler

March 2014

Link to the article in [Spanish](#)

The authors state that the energy system is in a deep crisis, as fossil energy causes damage to the environment and leads to a centralised energy system. They advocate a global energetic transformation towards greater efficiency, reduction of energy consumption and exclusion of fossil and nuclear energy. To achieve this goal an alliance between civil society, politics, scientific community and economy is needed, they conclude.

GERMAN INSTITUTE FOR ECONOMIC RESEARCH

Regulation, innovation and technology diffusion - evidence from building energy efficiency standards in Germany

by Makram El-Shagi, Claus Michelsen and Sebastian Rosenschoncz

27 March 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

The authors analyse how energy efficiency regulations, in terms of minimum standards, affect energy-use in newly constructed buildings and how it induces innovation in the residential-building industry. Their findings suggest that regulation significantly impacts technology adoption in low quality housing. This, in turn, induces improvements in the high quality segment where innovators respond to market signals.

GERMAN MARSHALL FUND OF THE UNITED STATES

Creative destruction in the energy sector: from disruption to transformation

by Guillaume Xavier-Bender, Ian Muir, Albert Bravo Biosca, John W. Jimison and Gerard Reid
5 March 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

This collection of papers presents the findings of a project which examined the disruptive effect of innovation on the energy sector, particularly centred on the electricity sector. The authors focus on the conditions necessary to ensure a smooth transformation of the power sector, market trends, and the consequences of technical innovation on investors and power markets.

INSTITUTE FOR EUROPEAN ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

Re-examining EU biofuels policy: a 2030 perspective

by Catherine Bowyer, David Baldock, Bettina Kretschmer and Ben Allen
18 March 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

There is currently an important policy window that offers the opportunity to reshape EU biofuel and renewable energy policy, this paper says. The authors argue that policy must reflect the reality that while biomass in principle can be renewed, the overall quantity sustainably available is finite and must be shared across an emerging bio-economy.

EUROPEAN UNION INSTITUTE FOR SECURITY

China's energy demands: are they reshaping the world?

by Gerald Stang
28 March 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

Both the EU and China are seeking to manage their energy dependency by diversifying suppliers, maximising domestic production, and improving energy efficiency. This paper examines the impact of China's growing imports on global energy markets and on suppliers in Africa, Asia and the Middle East. The author analyses if competition or cooperation becomes the dominant theme for other importers (notably in Europe) in response to China's growing role in the energy world.

NOTRE EUROPE - JACQUES DELORS INSTITUTE / ORKESTRA - INSTITUTO VASCO DE COMPETITIVIDAD

Energy policy: European challenges, Spanish answer

by Eloy Álvarez Pelegry and Macarena Larrea Basterra
14 Mars 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

This paper aims to offer suggestions about energy policy in Spain, starting with analysing the trends in terms of policy objectives, targets, and instruments. This is completed with an overview of the characteristics of the Spanish energy sector as well as of the evolution of the liberalisation process. The last section of this paper suggests that the Spanish energy policy must be ambitious but flexible, focusing on some special aspects such as competitiveness, final demand and the need for a real liberalisation.

Defence

EASTERN EUROPE STUDIES CENTRE

The prospects of the relationship of Lithuania and the United States of America

by Vilius Ivanauskas, Laurynas Kasčiūnas, Simonas Klimanskis, Linas Kojala and Dovilė Šukytė
5 March 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

This study assesses the compatibility of Lithuanian and US interests with respect to the international security architecture, development of NATO, interoperability between the EU CSDP and NATO, arms control and disarmament policy, and missile defence. It also explores the possibilities of strengthening the US–Lithuanian partnership in various sectors and it overviews Lithuanian interests in the context of EU negotiations with the US on the TTIP.

HEINRICH BÖLL FOUNDATION

The future of arms control

by Alyson Bailes et al.
March 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

The escalation of the armed conflict in Syria has been a painful reminder of the need to strengthen arms control and non-proliferation efforts with respect to weapons of mass destruction as well as conventional weapons. This paper takes this opportunity to figure out what steps should be taken to strengthen cooperative efforts in controlling and reducing military capabilities.

CLINGENDAEL - NETHERLANDS INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Sovereignty and defence cooperation

by Margriet Drent
26 March 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

This report assesses the role of parliaments in deepening defence cooperation by looking at the cases of the Netherlands and its main partners, Germany and Belgium. It argues that the involvement of parliaments in deeper defence cooperation can be improved without diminishing policy effectiveness. *Legitimacy* and *trust* are singled out as two elements of central importance. The report rounds off with recommendations on how to bridge the various conceptions of sovereignty and reconcile them with deeper defence cooperation.

INSTITUT FRANÇAIS DES RELATIONS INTERNATIONALES

Quelles perspectives pour l'industrie européenne des armements terrestres?

by Aude-Emmanuelle Fleurant and Yannick Queau
March 2014

Link to the article in [French](#)

The financial crisis and the ensuing sovereign debt crisis has put European countries under severe strain, prompting them to take fiscal consolidation measures affecting defence budgets. In this context, European arms manufacturers have looked for buoyant economies beyond Europe to maintain their market shares and outlets. As the fragmentation of the industry is proving to be the key challenge faced by these firms, this article explores several scenarios that could allow them to address it.

SECTION 2 - EXTERNAL RELATIONS

EU foreign policy

EUROPEAN POLICY CENTRE

Historic turning point or just another chapter? The results of a foreign-policy summit - post-summit analysis

by Janis A. Emmanouilidis

24 March 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

The March 2014 European Council could enter the history books as a turning point, not only in the EU's relations with Russia but also in its role as a foreign policy actor. Events in Ukraine inevitably dominated the Summit, but also other issues were discussed. The author highlights the achievements and failures of the Summit.

EUROPEAN CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT POLICY MANAGEMENT

A closer look into EU's external action frontline. Framing the challenges ahead for EU Delegations

by Damien Helly, Alisa Herrero, Anna Knoll, Greta Galeazzi and Andrew Sherriff

March 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

The authors state that the 'new' EU Delegations (EUDs) can be the best of both worlds – a long-term, 'whole-of-EU' approach to complement and work with the EU Member States' diplomatic assets – or the worst – a disjointed technocratic approach increasingly influenced by short-term Member States' political agendas. There is pressure for the EUDs to show results. Yet, the ultimate success of the EUDs depends on leadership and the willingness of all actors to develop effective internal and external relationships.

EGMONT – ROYAL INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

The role of the European Union in the world

by Eneko Landaburu

17 March 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

This paper examines possible means to strengthen the EU's foreign policy. Some of this progress could result from the implementation of the European Security Strategy or originate from the High Representative/Vice-president of the Commission. In addition, rethinking specific approaches could allow for significant improvements in key areas such as the EU's dealings with neighbour countries, its commercial relationship with the US, its energy security or its common security and defence policy.

SHARAKA / ISTITUO AFFARI INTERNAZIONALI

The role of mass media in building perceptions of EU-GCC relations and related impacts

by Fatma Al Araimi and Cinzia Bianco

14 March 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

This paper addresses the way the Gulf Cooperation Council region is presented in the EU media, and vice versa. The findings show a limited degree of familiarity and interaction, but at the same time a sort of latent interest, especially with regard to politics and economics. The lack of effective communication and significant media exposure has been acknowledged already in the relevant literature as a key factor at the root of several setbacks in the interregional dialogue. Concluding recommendations call for bridging this communication gap among media members and fostering more accurate and comprehensive reporting.

EU trade

FINNISH INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Illicit trade flows: how to deal with the neglected economic and security threat

by Karl Lallerstedt and Mikael Wigell

12 March 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

The authors state that illicit trade flows generate massive costs for the EU, yet the countermeasures have been inadequate. To address the problem, better data needs to be generated showing its extent and impact. Taking a holistic view of the various aspects of illicit trade is important to facilitate coordination among the relevant authorities. The costs of this work represent investments which – beyond enhancing security – will generate income by boosting tax revenues, reducing crime, creating jobs and driving economic growth.

COLLEGE OF EUROPE / UNITED NATIONS UNIVERSITY - INSTITUTE ON COMPARATIVE REGIONAL INTEGRATION STUDIES

Shifting between hegemony and dominance? A neo-gramscian analysis of the EU as a structural foreign policy actor: the singular case of the Cariforum-EU Economic Partnership Agreement

by Yentyl Williams

March 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

The Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) between the EU and Cariforum marks a substantive shift in trade relations between the regions and has far-reaching implications. This paper investigates into the details of structural embeddedness based on the EU's historic directionality towards the Caribbean region; notably, encouraging integration into the global capitalist economy by adapting to and adopting the ideals of neoliberal economics. The question to what extent the EPA is a structural foreign policy tool aimed at influencing and shaping the structures in the Caribbean is analysed in this paper.

CENTRE FOR EUROPEAN POLICY STUDIES

The EU's use of "targeted" sanctions: evaluating effectiveness

by Clara Portela

11 March 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

This paper evaluates EU targeted sanctions through the analysis of four concrete examples: Myanmar, North Korean, Iran, and Zimbabwe. It presents the varying degrees of effectiveness, depending on the country. It suggests that sanctions are complex tools that have to be tailored to the specific conditions of the country, and flexible enough to respond to its continuous evaluation process.

United States and the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership

GERMAN MARSHALL FUND OF THE UNITED STATES / OCP POLICY CENTER

Trade in the wider Atlantic and the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership

by Peter Sparding

6 March 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

This paper illustrates and analyses the history of trade relations in the Atlantic and the changing trade patterns in the wider Atlantic region, and explores the potential impacts of the TTIP on geostrategic and economic developments in the region. It suggests that TTIP could have a "competitive liberalization" effect, whereby other actors would be compelled to adjust their trade policies to the openness and high standards of the US and Europe.

ELCANO ROYAL INSTITUTE

US-EU trade negotiations: what is at stake?

by Federico Steinberg

6 March 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

According to the author, closing an ambitious accord on trade and investments could result in a boost to the economic growth of the US and EU, as well as in a recovery of their economic and geopolitical leadership. However, it will be necessary not only to overcome domestic obstacles linked to protectionist interests on both sides of the Atlantic, but also convince the emerging countries to accept the regulatory standards agreed upon by the EU and the US, something which is far from certain.

TRANSATLANTIC ACADEMY

Tests of partnership: transatlantic cooperation in cyber security, internet governance, and data protection

by Annegret Bendiek

6 March 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

The author states that although relations are being tested by recent developments, the transatlantic cyber partnership continues to stand on a solid normative and institutional foundation. The controversy surrounding the NSA's espionage activities should not be misunderstood as an existential threat to the transatlantic partnership. Instead, transatlantic differences can and should be speedily resolved through political dialogue.

Russia

INSTITUT FRANÇAIS DES RELATIONS INTERNATIONALES

Rosneft, Gazprom and the government: the decision-making triangle on Russia's energy policy

by Pawel Baev

March 2014

Link to the article in [English](#), in [French](#) and in [Russian](#)

The author argues that problems in the Russian energy sector are caused by the system of decision-making on oil and gas matters, in which Putin acts as a supreme arbiter in the triangle formed by the government and two super-large state companies—*Gazprom* and *Rosneft*. He also analyses how Russia exposes itself to many risks in the fast-moving global revolution in energy affairs. Russia has entered the phase of economic stagnation, and the under-performance of the energy sector is one of the key determinants of the durability of this trend. Energy export can no longer be wielded as a heavy-impact instrument of foreign policy, he concludes.

FRIEDRICH-EBERT-STIFTUNG

Vom Wirtschaftswunder in die Dauerkrise. Russlands Ökonomie vor einem Wendepunkt?

by Rudolf Traub-Merz

March 2014

Link to the article in [German](#)

This article widely examines Russia's economic situation. Recently the Russian state achieved a balanced budget and a reduction of the inflation rate, but the growth rate fell widely below the predictions in 2013 and the rouble experienced an appreciation, which weakens the economy's competitiveness in the global markets. In order to stimulate the economy, the author suggests a modernisation of the state enterprises and a capital investment policy, which would aim at a re-industrialisation.

Ukraine

GERMAN MARSHALL FUND OF THE UNITED STATES

What is at stake in Ukraine. Europe and the United States need to do what it takes to protect the right of the Eastern Partnership countries to choose their future

by Daniela Schwarzer and Constanze Stelzenmüller

19 March 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

This paper suggests that the EU together with the US must now do what it takes to protect Ukraine's right to choose its future path. The authors analyse how Western foreign policy could handle the current situation. They suggest that Europeans will have to pay a price for Ukraine's transformation, but the cost of not countering Russian attempts to destabilize Ukraine would be even higher.

INSTITUTO PORTUGUÊS DE RELAÇÕES INTERNACIONAIS

A crise na Ucrânia: a mudança alemã

by Patrícia Daehnhardt

21 March 2014

Link to the article in [Portuguese](#)

This paper predicts the impact of the crisis in Ukraine on European foreign policy. Three reactions to Russia's position can be expected: firstly, the post-Cold War order will be redefined considering the re-appearing salience of an East-West confrontation; secondly, the crisis will reinforce the transatlantic cooperation as well as the EU internal cooperation in foreign affairs; finally, German foreign policy towards Russia will change considerably.

FRIEDRICH-EBERT-STIFTUNG

The future of EU-Ukraine relations. Four scenarios

by Olga Averina et al.

March 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

The authors sketch four scenarios on the state of EU-Ukraine Relations in the year 2030. Two scenarios describe a process of Ukraine moving towards the EU: the "Highway"-Scenario, in which Ukraine is a full member, and the "Speed-limit Road", in which Ukraine is a "bridge" between the EU and Russia. The other two scenarios see Ukraine either in an unchanged position or in a stronger involvement in the Eurasian space.

MADARIAGA - COLLEGE OF EUROPE FOUNDATION

Framing the international context of the Ukrainian crisis

by Marco Giuli

March 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

This paper focuses on specific aspects of the current crisis in Ukraine, taking into consideration the positions of the major players in the international system. It argues that Russian assertiveness is a sign of extreme weakness which is not in the interest of the US, whilst the approach of European countries risks becoming a factor of significant instability within Ukraine.

Turkey

ISTITUTO AFFARI INTERNAZIONALI

Turkey's potential role in the emerging South-Eastern Mediterranean energy

by Elif Burcu Günaydın

5 March 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

The reserves of the South-Eastern Mediterranean gas findings can be a regional game changer, promising a considerable amount of gas surplus to be exported. The main export route and potential customers are still being debated, with Turkey being the most feasible option both as a customer and a transport route. Nevertheless, the fact that Israel and Cyprus are the first two explorers of significant resources complicates considerably the situation. Optimistically, the reserves may lead to a solution to the Cyprus conflict and restore diplomatic ties between Israel and Turkey.

CENTRE FOR EUROPEAN POLICY STUDIES

EU-Turkey relations: turning vicious circles into virtuous ones

by Steven Blockmans

26 March 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

This paper analyses the current status of EU-Turkey relations. Turkey will hold key elections in the coming months that could influence the Turkish side of the talks. On the EU side, the "new approach" to accession negotiation, covering two key chapters, 23 (judiciary and fundamental rights) and 24 (justice, freedom and security), could give new momentum to a process that looks going nowhere presently, according to the author.

Libya

ISTITUTO PER GLI STUDI DI POLITICA INTERNAZIONALE

Europe and the Libyan crisis: a failed state in the backyard?

by Arturo Varvelli

3 March 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

This report analyses the current situation in Libya in the aftermath of the elections to the Constitutional Assembly. Unlike other countries where the Arab Spring has brought to power groups related to the Muslim Brotherhood, Libya has partially escaped this fate. The EU and its individual members are trying to support Libyan transition, but, till now, they have had little impact on stabilization.

Asia

FRIDE / AGORA ASIA-EUROPE

Mapping EU-ASEAN relations

by Gauri Khandekar

5 March 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

This publication provides an in-depth review of the EU's relationship with the ASEAN and each of its 10 member countries. EU-ASEAN bilateral ties have undergone much progress in recent years. They are multi-layered, and cover a wide array of issues. By working with ASEAN, the EU enhances its presence in Asia and supports regional cooperation and multilateralism at large. This publication argues that the two parties should build on these achievements and deepen their partnership to exploit its full potential.

EUROPEAN INSTITUTE FOR ASIAN STUDIES

China's rise in Central Asia: implications for EU interests

by Yu Xichao

March 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

The author examines the rise of Central Asia from a marginal position to becoming one of the top priorities in China's foreign policy strategy. The region is of great geostrategic importance, and the increasing Chinese influence has sped up competition among major powers to defend their interests there, including Russia, the US, EU, Turkey and India. The EU has been Central Asia's biggest trading partner for decades, but it was passed by China in 2010. The EU has to define the role it will play in order to safeguard its own interests, the author concludes.

The final frontier: the EU's development policy in Myanmar

by András Áron Megyeri

March 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

This paper examines the difficulties Myanmar faces three years after the peace progress. The country remains plagued by corruption, ethnic conflicts, and religious tensions. It also shows that there is an increasing need to align EU development aid policy and frontier investments in order to tackle the asymmetric security challenges of drug trade and organised crime originating from Myanmar.

SPECIAL FOCUS - SOCIAL POLICY

FRIENDS OF EUROPE

A European Social Union: 10 tough nuts to crack

by Frank Vandenbroucke and Bart Vanhercke

5 March 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

This report is intended as a stimulus to widen the debate about the EU's social policy options once a new European Commission and European Parliament are in place. It stresses the necessity of an European Social Union and examines the steps towards this goal in different policy fields.

ELCANO ROYAL INSTITUTE / POLICY NETWORK / ISTITUO AFFARI INTERNAZIONALI

The unhappy state of the Union. Europe needs a new Grand Bargain

by Loukas Tsoukalis

26 March 2014

Link to the article in [English](#) - Partially available in [Italian](#)

The author analyses the manifold problems of the EU, particularly the eurozone crisis, the euroscepticism and the divisions between the Member States. He argues that Europe needs a new grand bargain, which only can be initiated by the stronger countries, and that supply-side economics and the goal of long-term fiscal consolidation need to be matched urgently with measures to boost demand and stimulate growth. The European project needs to become more inclusive again, thus increasingly catering for the needs of those on the losing side of a long economic transformation.

EGMONT – ROYAL INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

The case for a European Social Union

by Frank Vandenbroucke

18 March 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

This paper discusses the notion of a 'European Social Union', in which European countries would cooperate with an explicit social purpose. A European Social Union should not be seen as an idealistic bridge too far. Instead, a Social Union is both desirable and necessary for the eurozone and wider European integration.

CARITAS EUROPA

The European crisis and its human cost: a call for fair alternatives and solutions

by Ann Leahy, Seán Healy and Michelle Murphy

March 2014

Link to the article in [English](#) - Partially available in [Greek](#), in [Italian](#), in [German](#) and in [French](#)

This paper reports the findings from a Caritas Europe study on the impact of the economic crisis and austerity policies on the EU's most vulnerable people, with a focus on Cyprus, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Portugal, Romania and Spain. It finds that austerity measures are impacting very negatively on the lives of people in poverty, and driving many more into poverty for the first time. It concludes with recommendations aimed at European Institutions, national and local governments, and NGOs.

REGARDS CROISÉS

CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS / WILSON CENTER

Hungary's Jobbik party, the challenge of European ethno-nationalism and the future of the European project

by Dieter Dettke

March 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

This paper presents the Movement for a Better Hungary (Jobbik), which became the second-largest political party in Hungary at the recent elections. It stands out as the most radical right wing ethno-nationalist political movement in Europe, is determined to lead Hungary out of the EU and is also aggressively anti-Semitic and anti-Roma. The author also argues that the growing strength of anti-European right-wing nationalist and populist movements in the run up to the European elections in May 2014, could confront the EU with a major challenge from below, in addition to the vacuum of leadership at the top.

INSTITUT FRANÇAIS DES RELATIONS INTERNATIONALES

Le salafisme en Allemagne. Un défi pour la démocratie

by Marwan Abou-Taam

March 2014

Link to the article in [French](#)

Although still a small movement, Salafism - a radical ideology within Sunni Islam - is a challenge for Germany, as it is characterized by a rapid growth in the number of networks and grouping of individuals via Islamic seminaries and Internet, aimed particularly at young people. The author suggests that preventive strategies should focus on de-radicalization, stressing the compatibility of democratic values with Islam. Cooperation between stakeholders, from state authorities to Muslim partners via civil society is an essential prerequisite to the success of de-radicalisation measures.