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THINK TANK REVIEW

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This Think Tank Review* covers articles and reports published in December 2020 relating to different political and policy topics.

Reports discuss at length the consequences of the **Covid-19** disruption. They focus on member states' measures, such as one-off lump sum payments to those facing substantial revenue declines. They also focus on the ways in which the recovery fund is being allocated in order to reduce the social and economic impact of the pandemic, support the green and digital transitions and increase the economy's growth potential and create jobs. In particular papers:

- examine how EU citizens evaluate the EU measures taken to address the pandemic and its consequences: opinions are almost equally divided between positive and negative;
- ask if the pandemic poses a threat to EU cohesion by increasing economic divides and undermining trust in the EU and national governments; and analyse the evolution of the concepts of integration and solidarity in the EU;
- discuss the ideas on amending the current EU toolbox of economic governance;
- note that the net benefits of virus policy is challenging since we will always have to live with viruses, and the idea of eliminating them "at all cost" makes no economic or common sense;
- call for more elaborate mass testing strategies to be considered given the difficulties connected to PCR and antigen tests;
- focus on disinformation campaigns and the dissemination of fake news that have become increasingly problematic owing to the fact that global society has become increasingly dependent on social media; and on how the trade in counterfeit medical devices has been experiencing a boom; and
- assess how Covid-19 changed the future and what will be the geopolitical implications for the EU.

EU POLICY AREAS

On the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the **EU Charter of Fundamental Rights**, publications show what the Charter has meant to date and discuss future development opportunities. Several papers look at the potential outcome of the **Conference on the Future of Europe**, the goal of which is to determine the future development of the EU.

Reports examine how the EU can develop a coherent **green industrial policy** that will serve the goals of the European Green Deal. They highlight the fact that there is currently undisputable momentum for the EU member states to accelerate their **energy transition** in order to bring about a climate-neutral and circular economy. They also ask if the EU's **capital markets union** is now within sight and how a **budget for the euro area** might be established within the EU budget as part of the 2021-2027 MFF.

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

Josep Borrell explains why **European strategic autonomy** matters and that it is time to clarify what we mean with this concept and how it can help Europeans and Europe to take charge of themselves in an increasingly harsh world.

Several other papers also analyse the importance of the strategic autonomy. This is about empowering Europe, not disengaging from globalisation or multilateralism, with the strategic compass charting a new course for the EU's security and defence policy.

On **President's Biden Administration**, papers analyse the strategy the Biden administration will adopt towards the EU, as well as future cooperation in areas such as climate change, trade and health. Papers also examine whether the USA will re-establish its global leadership through engagement and cooperation.

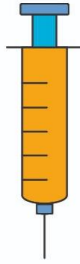
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COVID-19: EU coordination for safe and effective vaccination



COVID -19

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT THINK TANK

EU response to the coronavirus pandemic: citizens' views and expectations

by Alina Dobрева

This brief analyses how the EU citizens see the measures implemented by the EU to combat the coronavirus pandemic and its consequences. The evaluation of these measures are almost equally divided between positive and negative. (12 p.)

EUROPEAN COUNCIL OF FOREIGN RELATIONS

The crisis that made the European Union: European cohesion in the age of Covid

by Claire Busse [@claire_busse](#), Rafael Loss [@RafaellLoss](#), Jana Puglierin [@jana_puglierin](#) et al.

The pandemic poses a threat to European cohesion by increasing economic divides and undermining trust in the EU and national governments. The brief analyses levels of cohesion across the EU in times of crisis and formulates several recommendations to keep European cohesion strong in years to come. (33 p.)

ISTITUTO AFFARI INTERNAZIONALI

L'Unione europea oltre il trauma: integrazione e solidarietà nell'era post-Brexit e Covid-19

by Eleonora Poli [@Poli_Eleonora](#)

This study analyses the evolution of the concepts of integration and solidarity in the EU starting from the traumatic events that characterized 2020 such as the Covid-19

crisis and Brexit negotiations. The analysis develops along two axes: the concept of differentiated integration in the face of Brexit on the one hand, and that of solidarity in the face of the Covid-19 crisis on the other. (IT - 10 p.)

BERTELSMANN STIFTUNG

The empathy effect: empathy and the Covid-19 pandemic in European public opinion

by Catherine E. de Vries and Isabell Hoffmann [@is_hoffmann](#)

This report explores the role of empathy and in particular to what extent does empathy in the sense of being sensitive to the fate of other people help us understand people's willingness to engage in Covid-19-related health behaviour? Does empathy impact people's views regarding the role that European cooperation should play in the pandemic? The evidence is based on a June 2020 survey and on 13,000 EU citizens interviewed in several EU member states (MS). (44 p.)

KONRAD-ADENAUER-STIFTUNG

Verschörung in der Krise: Repräsentative Umfragen zum Glauben an Verschörungstheorien vor und in der Corona-Krise

by Jochen Roose

Shortly before the corona pandemic became a public issue, the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung carried out a representative survey on belief in conspiracy theories. A comparison is now possible with another representative survey a few months after the start of the corona pandemic. This involves two questions: how widespread is the belief in a "corona conspiracy" and has the belief in conspiracy theories increased significantly with the corona crisis? (DE - 36 p.)

FRIEDRICH-EBERT-STIFTUNG (FRIEDRICH EBERT FOUNDATION)

Citizen participation during the Covid-19 pandemic: insights from local practices in European cities

by Roberto Falanga

The outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic is the perfect storm that corroborates the magnitude of upcoming challenges for the future of democracy, cities, and citizen participation. The impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic in cities offer a unique cross section to understand whether and to what extent participatory practices have been pushed forward. (12 p.)

CATO INSTITUTE

Spreading like wildfire: economics and wildfire policy offer useful lessons for Covid-19 response

by Dean Lueck and Jonathan Yoder

As with wildfire policy, assessing the net benefits of virus policy is challenging. The problem is complex because of the large scale of the challenge preparation and response. We will always have to live with fire and viruses. The idea of eliminating either "at all cost" makes no economic or common sense. Eliminating a single fire, a single outbreak, or even a single virus may be possible, but the calculus and the best strategy is often nebulous at first and learned over time. (8 p.)

INSTITUTE FOR GOVERNMENT

The world of government in 2021

by Bronwen Maddox [@bronwenmaddox](https://twitter.com/bronwenmaddox)

Coronavirus has upended established politics and economics – and toppled some politicians. Governments need to bridge the divisions the crisis has created within countries and within international alliances as they try to plot a route to recovery and seize the opportunities emerging from the upheaval. (6 p.)

WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM

Global Covid-19 FinTech market rapid assessment study

This report shows that since the onset of the pandemic, the FinTech industry has seen increased growth. The expansion of transactions was noticeably higher in countries with strict Covid-19 lockdown measures, where growth was 50% higher compared to firms who were operating in countries with looser lockdown measures. (125 p.)

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT THINK TANK

The impact of Covid-19 on the Internal Market and consumer protection

by Caterina Mariotti, Agnieszka Markowska and Marta Ballesteros

This paper summarises the presentations and discussions that took place during an IMCO webinar on the impact of Covid-19 on the Internal Market and consumer protection. The webinar was structured in two panels: the first one focused on the free movement of goods and people; the second panel was devoted to consumer protection and provision of services. (27 p.)

SVENSKA INSTITUTET FÖR EUROPAPOLITISKA STUDIER (SWEDISH INSTITUTE FOR EUROPEAN POLICY STUDIES)

När folkhälsa ställs mot den inre marknaden – coronakrisen utmanar EU

by Anna Wetter Ryde

During the corona crisis, several MS have taken exceptional measures with far-reaching consequences for other EU countries. According to the author, the effects clarify the need for a more formal mandate for the EU to make decisions in future crises. (SV - 14 p.)

OBSERVER RESEARCH FOUNDATION

Post-Covid-19 recovery: harnessing the power of investment in sustainable infrastructure

by Andrea Marcello Bassi, Georg Pallaske and Marco Guzzetti

This brief argues that considering the pressure the Covid-19 pandemic has put on public budgets and the opportunity brought by recovery packages, giving greater attention to sustainable infrastructure could help maximise benefits and minimise societal costs. (18 p.)

EUROPEAN TRADE UNION INSTITUTE

Benchmarking working Europe 2020 - Covid-19 and the world of work: the impact of a pandemic

by Nicola Countouris and Romuald Jagodzinski
[@romekjagoda](#) (eds)

The authors explore some of the key steps in the way Europe responded to the previous crisis, as well as they emphasise the paradigm change that the response to the current crisis of Covid-19 necessitates. (196 p.)

INSTITUTO ESPAÑOL DE ESTUDIOS ESTRATÉGICOS

Las redes sociales y la Covid-19: herramientas para la infodemia

by Nuria Portero Alférez

With the Covid-19 pandemic and the fact that global society has been more connected than ever to social media, the perfect scenario was shaped for those aiming at disinformation campaigns and the dissemination of fake news. This article explores the methodology and interests of these disinformation campaigns. (ES - 23 p.)

NOTRE EUROPE - JACQUES DELORS INSTITUTE

Europeans facing vaccine hesitancy

by Isabelle Marchais [@IMarchais](#)

This paper analyses the development process of Covid-19 vaccines and how they

have been developed so quickly thanks to the enormous financial, human and logistical resources committed. Following the report, the success of the vaccination campaigns rolled out by each of the MS will depend also on citizens' willingness to have the vaccine. (5 p.)

CATO INSTITUTE

An unnecessary proposal: a WTO waiver of intellectual property rights for Covid-19 vaccines

by James Bacchus

Several developing countries have asked other members of the WTO to join them in a sweeping waiver of the IP rights relating to corona vaccines. IP rights should never become legal obstacles to ensuring early access to affordable medicines for everyone in the world. But also, in no event should WTO members act in ways that would eliminate the incentives that are essential to inspire the innovations that make new medicines possible. (5 p.)

TERRA NOVA

Focus mass testing: how to overcome low test accuracy ?

by Miquel Oliu-Barton [@OliuBarton](#) and Bary Pradelski
[@BaryPradelski](#)

Mass testing can be key to managing the pandemic in 2021: avoid a third wave while vaccination is being deployed. PCR tests are very accurate, but cannot be performed at a population-wide scale due to the limited laboratory capacity. On the other hand, antigen tests are widely available, but their lack of accuracy is problematic. To overcome these difficulties, more elaborate mass testing strategies need to be considered. (17 p.)

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE (ESRI)

Is it riskier to meet 100 people outdoors or 14 people indoors? Comparing public and expert perceptions of Covid-19 risk

by Shane Timmons [@shanetimmons](#), Cameron A. Belton [@cameronabelton](#), Deirdre A. Robertson [@Deirdre_AR](#) et al.

The contribution of the study is threefold: by measuring the accuracy of risk perceptions and illuminating underlying heuristics; demonstrating how techniques of psychological science can be used to inform interventions during the pandemic; and providing findings with interest beyond the response to Covid-19. The pandemic offers a highly unusual opportunity to measure how well the public can absorb complex risk information. (43 p.)

ENERGIEWIRTSCHAFTLICHES INSTITUT AN DER UNIVERSITÄT ZU KÖLN (INSTITUTE OF ENERGY ECONOMICS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF COLOGNE)

The reformed EU ETS in times of economic crises: the case of the Covid-19 pandemic

by Johanna Bocklet

Policy makers reformed the EU emission trading system (EU ETS) substantially in 2015 and 2018. As the Covid-19 pandemic led to an unforeseen contraction of the economy, it serves as an example to evaluate if the reforms can live up to these goals. The paper demonstrates that due to the market stability reserve and the cancellation mechanism, the corona crisis reduces aggregate emissions in the EU ETS. (46 p.)

EUROPEAN INSTITUTE OF THE MEDITERRANEAN

A renewed migration contract post-Covid: what next for migration governance in the Mediterranean?

by Anna Knoll [@anna_katharinak](#)

The author explores that 2020 has seen not only a fundamental disruption to mobility and migration due to Covid-19, but also the acceleration of ongoing processes and

pushing forward with policy pathways that existed before the pandemic in the Euromed region. (7 p.)

STIFTUNG WISSENSCHAFT UND POLITIK (GERMAN INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL AND SECURITY AFFAIRS)

Ein Paradies für Gangster? Transnationale organisierte Kriminalität in Zeiten der Covid-19-Pandemie

by Maria Dellasega and Judith Vorrath

Since the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic, some illegal fields of business, such as the trade in counterfeit medical devices, have been experiencing a boom. The associated risks require increased attention from policy makers and law enforcement agencies and more targeted international cooperation. (DE - 8 p.)

FONDATION POUR L'INNOVATION POLITIQUE

Après le Covid-19 le transport aérien en Europe: le temps de la décision

by Emmanuel Combe [@emmanuelcombe](#) and Didier Bréchemier [@didbrechemier](#)

The Covid-19 crisis will play the role of accelerator in the structural changes that air transport in Europe has experienced for twenty years on intra-European flights, marked by the rise of low cost players. This paper analyses this and develops in the lasting context of market attrition as well as the future of air transport in general. (FR - 64 p.)

EUROPEAN UNION INSTITUTE FOR SECURITY STUDIES

How Covid-19 changed the future: geopolitical implications for Europe

by Florence Gaub [@FlorenceGaub](#) and Lotje Boswinkel [@lotjeboswinkel](#)

This paper assesses the geopolitical trends accelerated by the pandemic, and the scope for innovation and far-reaching change induced by the crisis. It concludes that to proactively shape the future, EU decision-

makers have strategic choices to make – with the role that Europe wants to play in a world shaped by Sino-American antagonism being the most important. (57 p.)

KÜLÜGYI ÉS KÜLGAZDASÁGI INTÉZET (INSTITUTE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE)

Western Balkans in the year of the Covid-19 pandemic

by Anna Orosz and Ferenc Németh

The emergence of the novel coronavirus has altered the political agendas in the Western Balkans. This analysis introduces the health, political and socioeconomic dimensions of the pandemic crisis and evaluates the role of the EU and other external actors during the epidemic. (11 p.)

FORUM FOR RESEARCH ON EASTERN EUROPE AND EMERGING ECONOMIES (FREE NETWORK)

The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic in Eastern Europe: key points from the 2020 SITE Development Day Conference

by Anders Olofsgård and Svante Strömberg

This brief summarizes the presentations and discussions held at the Stockholm Institute of Transition Economics (SITE) Development day 2020 Conference, focusing on the consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic in Eastern Europe. (8 p.)

ISTITUTO AFFARI INTERNAZIONALI

Implications of the Covid-19 pandemic for the Africa-EU Partnership agenda on migration and mobility: a continental perspective

by Ottilia Anna Maunganidze and Tsion Tadesse Abebe
[@TsionTA](#)

This paper explores the implications of the Covid-19 pandemic on the partnership between Africa and Europe on migration and mobility. It highlights the differences in the approaches of the two blocs, and offers suggestions for policymakers to consider in their negotiations on migration cooperation. These suggestions focus on migration governance, returnees, development, legal

pathways to migration and international protection. (19 p.)

STIFTUNG WISSENSCHAFT UND POLITIK (GERMAN INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL AND SECURITY AFFAIRS)

Internationale Politik unter Pandemie- Bedingungen: Tendenzen und Perspektiven für 2021

by Barbara Lippert, Stefan Mair and Volker Perthes
[@volkerperthes](#)

Since the beginning of the pandemic, there has been a discussion about whether it is a historical game changer or whether it is merely accelerating the course of history. This study shows that some international trends that were already recognizable before the epidemic have gained speed. But on the whole, there are also breaks in the trend. (DE - 90 p.)

CARNEGIE EUROPE

Global civil society in the shadow of coronavirus

by Richard Youngs (ed.) [@YoungsRichard](#)

The coronavirus pandemic has had a profound impact not only on government policies but also on societies. The crisis has played out at the public authority level and, equally, at the community and civil society levels. This compilation examines the nature of these coronavirus-related shifts in global civil society covering examples around the world. (94 p.)

DEUTSCHES INSTITUT FÜR ENTWICKLUNGSPOLITIK (GERMAN DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE)

Towards more policy advice: maximising the UN's assets to build back better

by John Hendra [@JohnHendraCAN](#) and Max Baumann

In order to effectively assist countries in “building back better” following the pandemic, the UN and its development entities will need to adjust their approach. They need to respond by providing more and higher quality policy advice to governments

for dealing with the deep inequalities laid bare by the pandemic worldwide. (4 p.)

CATO INSTITUTE

Covid-19 and the US fiscal imbalance

by Jeffrey Miron [@jeffreymiron](#)

Before Covid-19, the US debt burden was large and on an unsustainable path. The pandemic did not substantially alter the projected path of the US fiscal imbalance. The paper outlines that the most effective way to slow the growth of the debt burden is to cut entitlement spending (Medicare) substantially. (12 p.)

FRIEDRICH-EBERT-STIFTUNG (FRIEDRICH EBERT FOUNDATION) / GEORGIAN FOUNDATION FOR STRATEGIC AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

Impact of anti-pandemic restrictions and government anti-crisis measures on employment, incomes and the poverty level in Georgia

by Merab Kakulia and Nodar Kapanadze

The study evaluates inter alia the direct impact of state anti-pandemic restrictions on employment and unemployment in Georgia; and the role of government emergency anti-crisis measures in neutralizing the negative impact of anti-pandemic restrictions on household incomes. (54 p.)

ISTITUTO AFFARI INTERNAZIONALI

Tecnologia e azione pubblica in Cina: il codice sanitario individuale e le principali tendenze delle politiche digitali cinesi contemporanee

by Todaro di Diego

The author claims that during the Covid-19 epidemic in China, the government introduced rigorous pandemic control measures thanks to technological tools such as the digital health code assigned to each citizen. He elaborates on following topics: the health code, the techno-utilitarianism, technology and governance, pervasive technology, and technology and ideology. (IT - 17 p.)

TERRA NOVA

Bolsonaro: indifferenza ou stratégie du chaos ? Ce que la pandémie fait à la politique

by Léa Lebeauvin

With more than 185,000 deaths and 7.2 million cases since the start of the pandemic, Brazil is one of the most affected countries in the world by the Covid-19 epidemic. Taking into account different considerations, the author asks if the dizzying number of victims of Covid-19 in Brazil has a real impact on politics for a government with such a particular connection to the truth. (11 p.)

INSTITUTE FOR GOVERNMENT

Brexit and coronavirus: economic impacts and policy response

by Gemma Tetlow [@gemmatetlow](#) and Thomas Pope

There are already signs that the government is going to allow Covid schemes to be used to cushion Brexit disruption. This report says the chancellor should instead design an alternative package of support to help businesses cope with short-term Brexit disruption, or allow those businesses special access to the existing Covid-19 schemes on a case-by-case basis. (21 p.)

INSTITUTE FOR GOVERNMENT

Science advice in a crisis

by Tom Sasse, Dr Catherine Haddon and Alex Nice

At the start of the coronavirus pandemic ministers insisted they were "following the science", and science advice has remained at the heart of government's response. Drawing on the UK's experience of past crises, this report examines the way the government has used science advice in the coronavirus pandemic and outlines how it could do so better in future. (58 p.)

FUNDACIÓN DE ESTUDIOS DE ECONOMÍA APLICADA

Non-working workers: the unequal impact of Covid-19 on the Spanish labour market

by José Ignacio García-Pérez and Antonio Villar

This report analyses the impact of Covid-19 on the Spanish labour market by using an evaluation model that aims to develop an index that considers, besides conventional unemployment rates, unemployment duration, discouraged workers and workers with suspended jobs. (27 p.)

MAX-PLANCK-INSTITUT FÜR GESELLSCHAFTSFORSCHUNG (MAX PLANCK INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY OF SOCIETIES)

An obituary for austerity narratives? An experimental analysis of public opinion shifts and class dynamics during the Covid-19 crisis

by Emanuele Ferragina [@ManuFerragina](#) and Andrew Zola

As a consequence of the Covid-19 disruption, the French government has reversed decades of fiscal consolidation policies based on austerity narratives by instating a costly emergency furlough scheme for a third of the workforce. This paper analyses in particular citizens' viewpoints, their sensitivity to the trade-off between health and economics, and receptiveness to austerity narratives. (28 p.)

FRIEDRICH-EBERT-STIFTUNG (FRIEDRICH EBERT FOUNDATION)

The French recovery strategy: setting the course for a climate-neutral and digital future?

by Bruno Ducoudré [@BDucoudre](#), Mathieu Plane [@MathieuPlane](#), Raul Sampognaro [@rsampognaro1982](#) et al.

This article analyses the recovery plan and the emergency plan that constitute the French government's response to the Covid crisis and the unprecedented economic crisis that has ensued. These plans draw, at least in part, on the lessons learned from the 2008 and 2011–12 crises. (9 p.)

TERRA NOVA

Vaccin Covid : réinventer la transparence

by Mélanie Heard [@melanieheard11](#), François Bourdillon [@BourdillonF](#), Gilles Pialoux et al.

For doing the anti-Covid vaccination a truly turning point, the provision of an effective and safe vaccine in terms of tolerance and acceptability is a necessary condition, but it will not be enough. The authors claim that the intentions declared by the French, as well as the very insufficient vaccination rates in France in certain non-compulsory vaccinations make such a horizon very uncertain. (19 p.)

INSTITUT MONTAIGNE

Vaccination en France : l'enjeu de la confiance

by Nicolas Bauquet [@NicolasBauquet](#) and Laure Millet [@Millet_Laure](#)

The success of the vaccination campaign is based on the confidence of the French citizens in the vaccine. The purpose of this note is twofold: first to present objective elements on the ongoing development of the vaccination campaign and on possible vaccine strategies; and to put forward concrete pathways on the collective organization to be put in place. (FR - 68 p.)

INSTITUT MONTAIGNE

Santé mentale: faire face à la crise

by Angèle Malâtre-Lansac

The current pandemic since it generates uncertainty, fear, isolation and grief, has and will have a strong impact on the mental health of the French. Between late September and early November 2020, the prevalence of depressive disorders doubled, particularly affecting young people and the most vulnerable. This study paves the way for a patient-centred approach, less stigmatization and better access to care. (FR -144 p.)

FRIEDRICH-EBERT-STIFTUNG (FRIEDRICH EBERT FOUNDATION)

The recovery plan in Italy: setting the course for a climate-neutral and digital future?

by Gianfranco Viesti [@profqviesti](#)

The author notes that the Italian recession triggered by the pandemic is one of the worst in Europe. A first estimate of 203 billion euros for 2021–26 includes 193 billion from the recovery and resilience facility. In September, the government presented its four overall goals: improving Italy's resilience and recovery capacity; reducing the social and economic impact of the pandemic; supporting the green and digital transitions; and increasing the economy's growth potential and creating jobs. (9 p.)

INSTITUT DER DEUTSCHEN WIRTSCHAFT (GERMAN ECONOMIC INSTITUTE)

Zur Ausgestaltung der Corona-Hilfen im Jahr 2021

by Tobias Hentze

In view of the partially existence-threatening consequences resulting from the partial shutdown due to the corona crisis, the Federal Government was and is under pressure to act. The report notes that the need for simple and effective help is unquestionable, because it helps to maintain economic structures. Nonetheless, flat-rate reimbursements of sales lead to distortions between companies. (DE - 24 p.)

DEUTSCHES INSTITUT FÜR WIRTSCHAFTSFORSCHUNG (GERMAN INSTITUTE FOR ECONOMIC RESEARCH)

Emergency aid for self-employed in the Covid-19 pandemic: a flash in the pan?

by Joern Block, Alexander Kritikos [@A_S_Kritikos](#), Maximilian Priem et al.

The German federal government approved a €50bn emergency aid program at the end of March 2020 offering one-off lump-sum payments of up to €15,000 to those facing substantial revenue declines. The authors investigate the impact of this program, and observed inter alia that the emergency aid

program had significant effects, with the subjective survival probability of self-employment being moderately increased. (37 p.)

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE (ESRI)

Post primary pedagogy in a pandemic

by Gretta Mohan [@gretta_mohan](#)

The school closures period from March to June 2020 was a unique experience in the history of Irish second-level education, forcing new, remote methods of pedagogical delivery. This article explores some key areas of impact – principally changes to teaching and learning approaches and decreases in student engagement and well-being. (4 p.)

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE (ESRI)

Sovereign debt after Covid-19: how the involvement of the ECB can impact the recovery path of a member state

by Matthew Allen-Coghlan, Kieran McQuinn and Petros Varthalitis [@p_varthalitis](#)

This article explores how ECB purchases of Irish sovereign bonds can impact the recovery path of the Irish economy over the next 10 years. Two scenarios are assessed, a V-shaped recovery and a long-lasting recovery. In both cases the supply and demand shocks from Covid-19 have significant implications for key economic and fiscal variables. Intervention from the ECB in the form of Irish sovereign debt purchases mitigates the decline in output significantly. (19 p.)

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE (ESRI)

Comparing two recessions in Ireland: global financial crisis vs Covid-19

by Matthew Allen-Coghlan and Petros Varthalitis [@p_varthalitis](#)

The research note compares the evolution of 3 types of key economic indicators across the 2 most recent recessions in the Irish economy. It indicates that the scale of the

negative economic shock is much more severe during the ongoing Covid-19 induced crisis. However, thus far it seems that the Irish economy bounces back more rapidly than during the financial crisis. (20 p.)

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE (ESRI)

[Behavioural pre-testing of Covid tracker, Ireland's contact-tracing app](#)

by Hannah Julienne, Ciarán Lavina, Cameron A. Beltona et al.

The report studied Covid tracker i.e. Ireland's contact-tracing app to control the spread of corona. Overall results demonstrate the value of pre-testing contact-tracing apps from a behavioural perspective to boost uptake, trust and participation. (33 p.)

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE (ESRI)

[Covid-19 and non-Irish nationals in Ireland](#)

by Shannen Enright, Frances McGinnity, Ivan Privalko et al.

This report assesses evidence of whether the impact of the Covid pandemic so far has disproportionately affected non-Irish nationals compared to Irish nationals in terms of their vulnerability to the virus and their labour market outcomes. It provides an early indication of the disruption of the patterns of migrant integration in Ireland immediately prior to the pandemic. (80 p.)



SVENSKA INSTITUTET FÖR EUROPAPOLITISKA STUDIER (SWEDISH INSTITUTE FOR EUROPEAN POLICY STUDIES)

EU:s rättighetsstadga 20 år: från Frankfurt (1848) till Lissabon (2009)

by Daniel Tarschys

The EU Charter of Fundamental Rights was proclaimed in Nice in December 2000 as a solemn declaration, but from the outset many wanted to see it as the cornerstone of a constitution for the EU. It never did, but the Treaty of Lisbon gave the Charter legally binding status. The author, who took part in the negotiations, talks about the origins of the Charter. (SV - 9 p.)

SVENSKA INSTITUTET FÖR EUROPAPOLITISKA STUDIER (SWEDISH INSTITUTE FOR EUROPEAN POLICY STUDIES)

EU:s rättighetsstadga 20 år: vad har den åstadkommit?

by Joakim Nergelius

In December 2020, the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights is 20 years old. The author shows what the Charter has meant so far and discusses future development opportunities. (SV - 15 p.)

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT THINK TANK

The effectiveness of conflict of interest policies in the EU member states

by Christoph Demmke, Maros Paulini, Jari Autioniemi et al.

This comparative study analyses the effectiveness of relevant rules, policies and practices within MS regarding conflict of interest for top political appointment (Head of Government, Ministers and other high ranking officials). (180 p.)

INSTITUT PRO EVROPSKOU POLITIKU EUROPEUM (EUROPEUM INSTITUTE FOR EUROPEAN POLICY)

Konference o budoucnosti Evropy z pohledu České republiky

by Zuzana Kasáková, Vladimír Bartovic and Vít Havelka
[@Havelka_Vit](#)

This brief presents a summary and recommendations resulting from the National Convention on EU Affairs on the topic of the Conference on the Future of Europe from the perspective of the Czech Republic, which took place in November 2020. (CS - 7 p.)

WILFRIED MARTENS CENTRE FOR EUROPEAN STUDIES

The potential outcome of the Conference on the Future of Europe in a Covid-19 world

by Olivier Le Saëc

Initially planned for 2020, the launch of the Conference on the Future of Europe has been postponed indefinitely due to the pandemic. This conference will bring together European institutions, civil society representatives, and citizens of all ages to debate on the future of Europe. This paper analyses the Conference and the consequences it will have in determining the future of the EU. (13 p.)

BERTELSMANN STIFTUNG

Public goods in the debate on the distribution of competences in the EU

by Christian Calliess

Public goods reflect a complex construct between the principle of solidarity and the principle of subsidiarity in EU law. This brief contextualises public goods in European law and shows that they can act as a point of reference for the distribution of competences between the EU and the MS, thus contributing to the upcoming Conference on the Future of Europe. (7 p.)

HERTIE SCHOOL / JACQUES DELORS CENTRE

Five takeaways from the German “Corona Presidency”

by Nicole Koenig  [@Nic Koenig](#) and Thu Nguyen  [@onethuthree](#)

On 31 December 2020, Germany’s rotating EU Council presidency ended. The authors sum up the following five takeaways: corona presidencies stand and fall with one big priority i.e. recovery; the honest broker role matters; “videoconference diplomacy” has severe limitations; to set and drive the agenda there must be an agenda; and many things are beyond the presidency’s control. (8 p.)



COMPETITIVENESS (INTERNAL MARKET, INDUSTRY, RESEARCH AND SPACE)

BRUEGEL

A green industrial policy for Europe

by Simone Tagliapietra [@Tagliapietra_S](#) and Reinhilde Veugelers

Unlike traditional industrial policy, green industrial policy must be directed to twin goals of climate protection and social welfare. Green industrial policy initiatives in the EU so far, however, have been piecemeal and fragmented. This blueprint examines how the EU can develop a coherent green industrial policy that will serve the goals of the European Green Deal. (99 p.)

EUROPEAN UNION INSTITUTE FOR SECURITY STUDIES

Sovereignty over supply? The EU's ability to manage critical dependences while engaging with the world

by Daniel Fiott and Vassilis Theodosopoulos

This brief asks how the EU market can keep its openness while also safeguarding critical supply chains. It affirms that this can be achieved by investing in and commanding critical technology areas, diversifying and strengthening trade partnerships and managing resources. The paper also discusses the pandemic and its consequences, highlighting the EU's

perception of supply risks and supply chain (in)security will increasingly play a role in the EU's economic power. (8 p.)

WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM

Global competitiveness report special edition 2020: how countries are performing on the road to recovery

by Klaus Schwab [@ProfKlausSchwab](#) and Saadia Zahidi [@zahidi](#)

The 2020 special edition of the global competitiveness report series is dedicated to elaborating on the priorities for recovery and revival, and considering the building blocks of a transformation towards new economic systems that combine “productivity”, “people” and “planet” targets. (95 p.)

ZENTRUM FÜR EUROPÄISCHE WIRTSCHAFTSFORSCHUNG (CENTRE FOR EUROPEAN ECONOMIC RESEARCH)

‘Pay-Later’ vs. ‘Pay-as-You-Go’: experimental evidence on present-biased overconsumption and the importance of timing

by Madeline Werthschulte

The author runs a lab experiment which mimics an energy consumption choice and randomizes the timing of when consumption costs are paid: either immediately (‘pay-as-you-go’) or one-week after consumption (‘pay-later’). Results show that pay-as-you-go billing significantly decreases consumption, and in particular wasteful consumption. (25 p.)

INSTITUT DER DEUTSCHEN WIRTSCHAFT (GERMAN ECONOMIC INSTITUTE)

Competition in the digital economy: an analysis of gatekeepers and regulations

by Jan Büchel and Christian Rusche

Europe is a large target market for globally operating digital platforms, although the majority of the most successful platforms come from the USA or Asia. Tailored procedures for individual large online platforms with gatekeeper power on a case-by-case basis are more expedient. Thereby

the current regulatory framework is capable of acting and builds on established legal pillars. (28 p.)

CHATHAM HOUSE - THE ROYAL INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

AI-driven personalization in digital media: political and societal implications

by Sophia Ignatidou [@SophiaIgnatidou](#)

The fallout from disinformation and online manipulation strategies have alerted Western democracies to the novel, nuanced vulnerabilities of our information society. This paper outlines the implications of the adoption of AI by the legacy media, as well as by the new media, focusing on personalization. (42 p.)

WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM

Global technology governance report 2021: harnessing fourth industrial revolution technologies in a Covid-19 world

This report examines some of the most important applications of fourth industrial revolution technologies if we are to thrive in a post-pandemic world and the governance challenges that should be addressed for these technologies to reach their potential. (67 p.)

ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

EUROPEAN CAPITAL MARKETS INSTITUTE / CENTRE FOR EUROPEAN POLICY STUDIES

Creating a common safe asset without eurobonds

by Wim Boonstra and Apostolos Thomadakis

The brief argues that the international position of the euro is stagnating close to historical lows, while the lack of a European-wide common safe asset highlights the fragmented nature of national government bond markets. Although collective issuance of government debt by MS through eurobonds seems to be unattainable for political reasons, there are other ways to

arrive at a common safe asset. Debt issuance by the ECB and the EU could play a constructive role here. (11 p.)

MAX-PLANCK-INSTITUT FÜR GESELLSCHAFTSFORSCHUNG (MAX PLANCK INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY OF SOCIETIES)

The ambiguous consensus on fiscal rules: how ideational ambiguity has facilitated social democratic parties' support of structural deficit rules in the Eurozone

by Andreas Eisl [@AndreasEisl](#)

In recent years, all eurozone MS have introduced national fiscal rules, which put limits on public deficits and debt. This paper argues that the concept of structural deficit rules, central to reform efforts across the eurozone, allowed for the formation of an ambiguous consensus between center-right and center-left parties. (35 p.)

EUROPEAN CAPITAL MARKETS INSTITUTE / CENTRE FOR EUROPEAN POLICY STUDIES

Is Europe's capital markets union now in sight?

by Apostolos Thomadakis, Karel Lannoo [@karel_lannoo](#) and Cosmina Amariei

In Europe, capital markets are at differing stages of development, and are far from integrated. According to the authors, a fresh agenda for the financial sector that is both anchored in the needs of the real economy and shows regulatory quality is required now, for instance in the form of an ambitious second phase of the CMU project. (10 p.)

BRUEGEL

Building a Euro-area budget inside the EU budget: squaring the circle?

by Grégory Claeys [@gregclaeys](#)

This paper explores how a budget for the euro area might be established within the EU budget as part of the 2021-2027 MFF. It discusses what budgetary tool the euro area needs and what essential characteristics it should have. It compares these with the

characteristics of the 'budgetary instrument for competitiveness and convergence' agreed upon by the Eurogroup in 2019. In its current form this new instrument will most probably be inadequate to deal with the most important challenges facing the euro area. (12 p.)

CLINGENDAEL - NETHERLANDS INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Economic governance from rules to management: how to strengthen member states

by Adriaan Schout [@adriaanschout](#) and Jens Kuitert

This brief discusses the ideas of modification of the current EU toolbox of economic governance. The pandemic situation should be used to initiate a new governance trajectory aimed at reinforcing independent national institutions and maximising national ownership of objectives related to convergence. The brief accentuates also the relevance of subsidiarity, raising the question how to divide economic roles between the MS and the EU. (12 p.)

DEUTSCHES INSTITUT FÜR WIRTSCHAFTSFORSCHUNG (GERMAN INSTITUTE FOR ECONOMIC RESEARCH)

EU sustainable finance taxonomy – what is its role on the road towards climate neutrality?

by Franziska Schütze [@schuetze_f](#) and Jan Stede

The EU taxonomy is the first standardised and comprehensive classification system for sustainable economic activities. This paper shows that for several sectors, the thresholds are not yet on track to support the transition towards climate neutrality. It also argues that for the sectors not covered by the taxonomy, there is a need to differentiate between low-emissions activities and high-emission activities that are incompatible with a low-carbon future. (37 p.)

TERRA NOVA

Normes comptables: un outil de l'autonomie stratégique européenne Accounting standards : a tool for the European strategic autonomy

by Abdeldjellil Bouzidi, Etienne Boris and Marie Delorme

Accounting standard setting is a good example of where Europe could develop a shared strategic vision. With multilateralism taking a step back in the context of increased tensions between China and the US, Europe finds itself isolated in its way of advocating the benefits of and implementing international accounting standards. (FR - 22 / EN - 20 p.)

SVENSKA INSTITUTET FÖR EUROPAPOLITISKA STUDIER (SWEDISH INSTITUTE FOR EUROPEAN POLICY STUDIES)

Många hinder för EU:s dataskatt

by Daniel Tarschys

The European Commission (EC) has announced a "digital fee" to contribute to the repayment of the EU recovery plan. The author points out that the MS have not agreed on previous proposals for EU taxes from the EC and that there is still national opposition to common taxes. (SV - 8 p.)

EDUCATION / YOUTH / CULTURE / SPORT

EGMONT INSTITUTE

From emergency remote learning to a new digital education action plan: an EU attempt to mainstream equality into education

by Marcel Muraille [@MarcelMuraille](#)

The Covid-19 pandemic provoked the digital shift in teaching and learning, which revealed alarming gaps in digital skills and technology accessibility. Taking stock of the unforeseen consequences of the crisis, the EC updated its digital education action plan. This brief assesses it through the lens of the EU's commitments to promote social inclusion and equality in teaching and learning. (7 p.)

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE (ESRI)

Academic and socio-emotional outcomes of young people with special educational needs and the role of parental educational expectations

by Georgiana Mihut, Selina McCoy [@MccoySelina](#) and Bertrand Maître

This paper examines socio-emotional and academic outcomes among 17-year-olds with different types of special educational needs and the role of parental educational expectations in shaping these outcomes. (18 p.)

EMPLOYMENT / SOCIAL POLICY / HEALTH AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

MTA KÖZGAZDASÁG- ÉS REGIONÁLIS TUDOMÁNYI KUTATÓKÖZPONT - VILÁGGAZDASÁGI INTÉZET (CENTRE FOR ECONOMIC AND REGIONAL STUDIES HAS - INSTITUTE OF WORLD ECONOMICS)

Jóléti állami modellek és jóllétalapú klaszterek az Európai Unió országában: van-e átfedés?

by Lakócai Csaba

Is there an overlap in welfare state models and welfare-based clusters in EU countries? The present study covers the EU countries welfare factor variables (environmental conditions, social participation and public trust). (HU - 28 p.)

INSTITUT PRO EVROPSKOU POLITIKU EUROPEUM (EUROPEAN INSTITUTE FOR EUROPEAN POLICY)

Cross-generational cooperation in the workplace

by Lenka Farkačová

This paper deals with the issue of development of networks of cross-generational teams of individual EU countries, which are to serve as tools to achieve the EU's competitive advantage in the global market. (9 p.)

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE (ESRI)

Determinants of the (non-housing) labour income share in the EU

by Ilias Kostarakos [@i_kostarakos](#)

This report assesses the developments in the non-housing labour income share for the EU MS between 1995-2018. It shows that the labour share has remained relatively constant, exhibiting a slight increase toward the end of the sample period. (22 p.)

OPEN SOCIETY FOUNDATIONS

Towards an EU toolbox for migrant workers: labour mobility and regularisation in Germany, Italy, and Spain in 2020

by Eleonora Camilli, Giulia Laganà [@laganagan](#), Gemma Pinyol-Jiménez [@gemma_pinyol](#) et al.

As part of the EU migration and asylum pact, the EC has pledged to present proposals on legal migration in 2021 to better match labour demand and supply, enable faster access to visas and work permits, and increase the intra-EU mobility of foreign workers. This report analyses the actions taken by three EU countries: Germany, Italy, and Spain, which have created or expanded labour migration pathways, regularised part of the undocumented population, and increased protections for some categories of migrants. (26 p.)

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

CENTRE FOR EUROPEAN POLICY STUDIES

Framing the circular economy as an EU recovery opportunity

by Vasileios Rizos [@vasileios_rizos](#), Milan Elkerbout [@MilanElkerbout](#), Christian Egenhofer [@CEgenhofer](#) et al.

Recovery from the Covid-19 crisis presents an important and unique opportunity for the EU to accelerate its transition towards a climate-neutral and circular economy. This paper discusses various policy instruments to create demand for circular materials and lower-carbon products, illustrated by

examples of four resource and carbon-intensive sectors, namely construction, steel, textiles and plastics. (26 p.)

FONDATION ROBERT SCHUMAN

Economic recovery and climate: for Europe and the world, two battles to fight at once

by Clémence Pèlerin [@clempelerin](#)

The global economic and sanitary situation has accelerated many States' commitments to fight climate change and, more specifically, the inclusion of climate issues in national recovery plans. This paper notes that it is essential to ensure the convergence of MS on the Union's climate trajectory up to 2030 and to present an updated collective contribution to the UNFCCC so that the EU can demonstrate a strong position at the COP26 in November 2021. (5 p.)

EUROPEAN INSTITUTE OF THE MEDITERRANEAN

Climate change in the Mediterranean: environmental impacts and extreme events

by Manfred A. Lange

The Mediterranean is vulnerable to climate change impacts in a number of ways. This brief focuses on the past and present climate changes in this region, before considering future climate projections and the resulting extreme events. (16 p.)

GENERAL AFFAIRS

EUROPEAN POLICY CENTRE

Safeguarding European values: the case for a European Agency for Citizenship Education

by Sophie Pornschlegel [@spornschlegel](#) and Susanne Zels [@SusanneZels](#)

The paper builds on the idea that best way to counter democratic backsliding in the EU and safeguard European values is to equip EU citizens with the knowledge and skills they need to exercise their political rights. To achieve this, the authors make a case for establishing a European Agency for Citizenship Education, which would allow

people across Europe to develop their democratic competences, and learn about their rights and duties as EU citizens. (24 p.)

HERTIE SCHOOL / JACQUES DELORS CENTRE

The EU's new rule of law mechanism: how it works and why the 'deal' did not weaken it

by Thu Nguyen [@onethuthree](#)

This paper analyses the rule of law conditionality that was one of the stickiest issues surrounding the negotiations on the EU's long-term budget, the MFF, and the recovery fund. (6 p.)

WISEGRAD FUND

V4 countries in the process of EU integration of the WB6 and implementation of Berlin process

by Momčilo Radulović (ed.)

This study was conducted within the project "Together for EU enlargement - V4 and WB strengthening cohesion of EU integration and Berlin process". It assesses capacities and achievements of the institutional activities, as well as efforts of various social, political and economic subjects within Visegrad 4 countries that are directly or indirectly supporting Berlin process and overall EU accession of the WB countries. (18 p.)

JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS

ÖSTERREICHISCHE GESELLSCHAFT FÜR EUROPAPOLITIK (AUSTRIAN SOCIETY FOR EUROPEAN POLITICS)

Das neue EU-Migrations- und Asylpaket: Kernpunkte der laufenden Verhandlungen

by Florian Trauner [@ftrauner](#)

This brief analyses some of the key points of the ongoing negotiations on the new EU migration and asylum package, which was presented by the EC in September 2020. (DE - 8 p.)

ISTITUTO AFFARI INTERNAZIONALI

Expanding legal labour migration pathways to the EU: will this time be different?

by Martin Ruhs [@MartinRuhs](#)

The EC's new pact on migration and asylum calls on EU MS to increase legal labour migration pathways, including for lower-skilled workers. To help achieve this goal, the pact proposes greater and more effective cooperation with non-EU countries through so-called "talent partnerships". (7 p.)

ISTITUTO AFFARI INTERNAZIONALI

The EU's pact on migration and asylum: a tsunami of papers but little waves of change

by Stefano Manservigi [@stefanomanservi](#)

This paper affirms that the pact on migration and asylum builds on present realities, a time when migration pressure and numbers are relatively small compared with previous years. There is therefore a window of opportunity, as also suggested by President Von der Leyen's announcement of the end of the Dublin Treaty. (8 p.)

MIGRATION POLICY INSTITUTE

How will international migration policy and sustainable development affect future climate-related migration?

by Robert McLeman [@rmcleman](#)

This report describes how future climatic conditions under standardized greenhouse gas concentration scenarios may affect climate-related drivers of migration and displacement, and how international development and migration policies may mediate migration outcomes. (39 p.)

MIGRATION POLICY INSTITUTE

New approaches to climate change and migration: building the adaptive capacity of mobile populations

by Carol Farbotko [@carolfarbotko](#)

It is often assumed that there is a direct link between climate change and human

mobility, and that mobility is evidence of a failure to adapt to changing conditions. This report examines the concept of "adaptive capacity" and how it can be useful in understand the relationship between climate change and migration. (24 p.)

DEUTSCHE GESELLSCHAFT FÜR AUSWÄRTIGE POLITIK (GERMAN COUNCIL ON FOREIGN RELATIONS)

Breaking the transatlantic data trilemma: the EU must step up its approach to EU-US data flows

by Tyson Barker [@tysonbarker](#)

The Euro-American data relationship faces an impossible "trilemma" among three core policy objectives: bulk intelligence collection, open transatlantic digital commerce, and the EU's fundamental rights. The author suggests the EU needs to take action if it is to protect the economically critical transatlantic data corridor and maintain the tech leadership role Europe wants. (9 p.)

CHATHAM HOUSE - THE ROYAL INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

The application of international law to state cyberattacks: sovereignty and non-intervention

by Harriet Moynihan

Hostile cyber operations by one state against another state are increasingly common. This paper analyses the application of the sovereignty and non-intervention principles in relation to states' cyber operations in another state below the threshold of the use of force. (61 p.)

TRANSPORT / TELECOMMUNICATIONS / ENERGY

FONDATION POUR LA RECHERCHE STRATÉGIQUE (FRS)

La stratégie des approvisionnements en matières premières de l'Union européenne : le cas du secteur automobile

by Yannick Harrel

In a tense global health context, the EC published in September 2020 a communication focused on the issue of critical raw materials accompanied by a plan for 'action'. This report explores why the EU chose in 2020 to deepen its vision by announcing the establishment of a real upstream strategy and not contenting itself with a simple update? (FR - 18 p.)

EUROPEAN POLICY CENTRE/KONRAD- ADENAUER-STIFTUNG

Fostering Europe's strategic autonomy: digital sovereignty for growth, rules and cooperation

by Andreas Aktoudianakis [@andreas_akt](#)

The paper provides recommendations for the EU to foster its digital sovereignty. It proposes a strategy based on addressing the dependence on foreign technologies, unfair competition and infrastructure vulnerabilities; empowering Europe by removing barriers in the digital single market; and engaging internationally to leverage EU regulatory power. (24 p.)

NOTRE EUROPE - JACQUES DELORS INSTITUTE

Strategic choices for the EU's digital trade policy after the US election

by Nicolas Köhler-Suzuk

This paper analyses the digital trade policy of the EU, comparing it with that of the US and China. It states that, in 2019, out of the thirty largest technology firms, eighteen were headquartered in the US, seven in China, and one in the EU. It also affirms that the EU has, nevertheless, begun to develop digital

policies that navigate the treacherous currents of geopolitics in a strategic triangle with the US and China. (7 p.)

WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM

State of the connected world: 2020 edition

The report argues that applications of the internet of things (IoT) such as connected thermal cameras, contact tracing devices and health-monitoring wearables are providing critical data needed to help fight the disease. Temperature sensors and parcel tracking are also helping to ensure that sensitive Covid-19 vaccines are distributed safely. Yet the use of IoT in fighting the pandemic has also shed light on concerns about its security, privacy, interoperability and equity. (82 p.)

OPEN SOCIETY FOUNDATIONS

Response to European Commission consultation on the digital services act package

by Pamela Valenti and Guillermo Beltrà

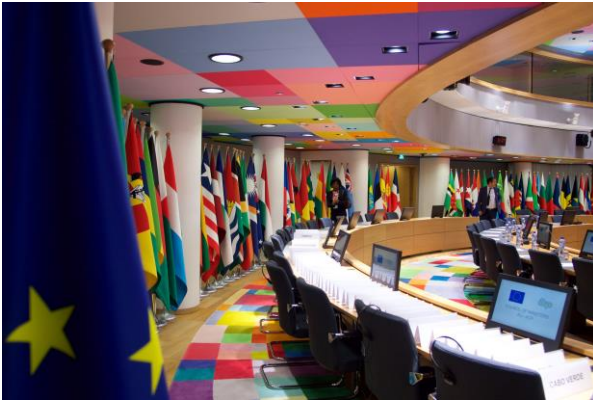
This report provides recommendations for EU action in the areas of competition in digital markets, content governance, and the protection of fundamental rights, to safeguard freedom of expression; counter disinformation, harmful content, and hate speech and guarantee an efficient oversight and enforcement architecture. (49 p.)

E3G

Energy diplomacy beyond pipelines: navigating risks and opportunities Energiediplomatie jenseits von Pipelines : Chancen und Risiken

by Pieter de Pous [@Pieter de Pous](#), Lisa Fischer [@FactFishing](#) and Felix Heilmann [@HeilmannFelix](#)

This study presents scenarios for future Green Deal aligned energy diplomacy and the opportunities and risks associated with each. (EN - 32 p.) (DE - 36 p.)



FOREIGN AND SECURITY POLICY / DEFENCE

INSTITUT FRANÇAIS DES RELATIONS INTERNATIONALES

Pourquoi l'Europe doit-elle être stratégiquement autonome?

by Josep Borrell [@JosepBorrellF](#)

This paper analyses the establishment and development of a "European strategic autonomy". It assures that there has been a fruitful debate around establishing a strategic compass for the next years, but the strategy needs to be more developed and consolidated. (FR - 10 p.)

EUROPEAN POLICY CENTRE / KONRAD- ADENAUER-STIFTUNG

Fostering Europe's strategic autonomy: a question of purpose and action

by Giovanni Grevi

Strategic autonomy is about empowering Europe, not disengaging from partnerships, globalisation or multilateralism. The paper discusses the concept in its many facets and highlights key issues for its development as expression of a sense of purpose in the world, definition of clear priorities, and development of a stronger power base to work with others and respond to threats and challenges. (26 p.)

CLINGENDAEL - NETHERLANDS INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

European strategic autonomy in security and defence. Now the going gets tough, it's time to get going

by Dick Zandee, Bob Deen, Kimberley Kruijver et al.

The report defines the concept of European strategic autonomy and addresses the issue of its various degrees. It contains reflection on institutional aspects of European security architecture, including the EU-NATO relationship, and asks what the required military level of ambition for European strategic autonomy could be. It presents also views on European strategic autonomy in various European countries. (80 p.)

ISTITUTO AFFARI INTERNAZIONALI

The quest for European strategic autonomy – A collective reflection

by Ester Sabatino [@Ester_Sab1](#), Daniel Fiott
[@DanielFiott](#), Dick Zandee et al

The report reflects on challenges EU defence faced in 2020 and achievements reached in the field despite the economic impact of Covid-19. It focuses on the themes of strategic autonomy, the strategic compass, the nuclear landscape and the impact of Brexit on EU defence. (29 p.)

WILFRIED MARTENS CENTRE FOR EUROPEAN STUDIES

The strategic compass charting a new course for the EU's security and defence policy

by Niklas Novák [@NiklasNovaky](#)

The EU has embarked on a process to develop a strategic compass for its security and defence policy. This brief analyses this strategy, affirming that it facilitates the development of a shared strategic culture; and clarifies the overall image of EU defence cooperation with the Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO), the European Defence Fund, and the coordinated annual review on defence. (20 p.)

HERTIE SCHOOL / JACQUES DELORS CENTRE

[Time to go beyond the meta-debate on EU strategic autonomy in defence](#)

by Nicole Koenig [@Nic_Koenig](#)

EU MS have been debating the notion of European strategic autonomy in the field of defence for decades. This paper discusses the consequences that the election of US President Donald Trump in 2016 had in the EU defence and security autonomy, and how this autonomous strategy has evolved during the last four years. (5 p.)

LATVIJAS ĀRPOLITIKAS INSTITŪTS (LATVIAN INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS)

[Towards #NATO2030: the regional perspective of the Baltic States and Poland](#)

by Maris Andžans and Martinš Vargulis [@MartinsVargulis](#) (eds)

This collection of papers reflects on topical security issues of the NATO. Particular attention is devoted to the transatlantic link, Baltic defence, the NATO-Russia relationship, and the role of other emerging elements and actors. (209 p.)

LATVIJAS ĀRPOLITIKAS INSTITŪTS (LATVIAN INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS)

[Riga dialogue 2020 papers: strategic narratives and sustainability in the Euroatlantic community](#)

by Andris Spruds and Karlis Bukovskis (eds)

The seventh annual "Riga dialogue" took place in September 2020. High-level international decision-makers and experts participated in off-the-record discussions on the future of multilateralism, the de-escalation of NATO-Russia tensions, and arms control and disarmament agreements. The report elaborates on many of the ideas presented at these discussions. (143 p.)

EKONOMSKI INSTITUT, ZAGREB (INSTITUTE OF ECONOMICS, ZAGREB)

[Patterns of interrelationships between inflation, R&D, innovation, and economic growth: evidence from Central and Eastern European countries](#)

by Ljubivoje Radonjić and Nevena Veselinović

This article examines the nexus between inflation, R&D, patents, and economic growth within a group of Central and Eastern European countries. The outcomes indicate that total R&D expenditures are essential and positively significant for economic growth in the observed countries. Public and private R&D expenditures generate innovation activities, while the impact of inflation has proven to be unimportant. (28 p.)

KONRAD-ADENAUER-STIFTUNG

[Eastern Mediterranean in uncharted waters: perspectives on emerging geopolitical realities](#)

by Michaël Tanchum [@michaeltanchum](#) (ed.)

This publication presents a comprehensive account of the Eastern Mediterranean crisis. With a focus on the three interlinked conflicts of the Cyprus problem, the Greece-Turkey maritime boundary dispute, and the Libyan civil war, it provides an account of the Eastern Mediterranean crisis giving differing details and contrary narratives about the same events and phenomena. (85 p.)

STIFTUNG WISSENSCHAFT UND POLITIK (GERMAN INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL AND SECURITY AFFAIRS)

[In Richtung einer gemeinsamen europäischen China-Politik – Frankreich und Deutschland vereint](#)

by François Godement [@FGodement](#) and Gudrun Wacker [@GudrunWacker](#)

Over the past years, the EU and European governments have acted increasingly realistically, adapting to China's "new normal", often referred to as "the end of naivety". The paper asks how can European resilience be strengthened beyond purely

defensive measures; how to overcome the problem of the lowest common denominator in EU opinions; how can we determine in which areas we can demand concessions from China or take countermeasures if such concessions are not made? (DE - 10 p.)

CLINGENDAEL - NETHERLANDS INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Dealing with China on high-tech issues: views from the US, EU and like-minded countries in a changing geopolitical landscape

by Brigitte Dekker [@BrigitteDekker](#) and Maaïke Okano-Heijmans [@MaaïkeOh](#) (eds)

With the election of Joe Biden, both the EU and the US are ready to re-engage on key issues. One of them is China and high-tech. The report tries to answer the common question: what opportunities and challenges exist for cooperation, coordination and synergies between the US and the EU, and with like-minded partners in Asia, to address the shared challenge of a stronger and more assertive China. (72 p.)

EUROPEAN COUNCIL OF FOREIGN RELATIONS

Climate superpowers: how the EU and China can compete and cooperate for a green future

by Janka Oertel [@oertel_janka](#), Jennifer Tollmann [@jennytollmann](#) and Byford Tsang [@byfordt](#)

The paper argues that the broad notion of 'partnership' no longer sufficiently reflects the true complexity of the EU's interaction with China in tackling the climate change. It includes concrete policy recommendations for EU action, proposing ways to manage growing competition and build alliances to deal with the broader systemic rivalry. (32 p.)

EUROPEAN UNION INSTITUTE FOR SECURITY STUDIES

Conflicts to come: 15 scenarios for 2030

by Florence Gaub [@FlorenceGaub](#)

The volume presents 15 fictionalised scenarios that imagine how future conflicts might occur. These scenarios contribute to, and at times challenge, the existing body of assumptions concerning the genesis of conflict, its likelihood and how it might play out. (110 p.)

TRADE

EUROPEAN CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT POLICY MANAGEMENT

ACP-EU relations: the end of preferences? A personal assessment of the post-Cotonou agreement

by Jean-Claude Boidin

Launched in 2018, negotiations for a post-Cotonou agreement between the EU and the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) states have just been concluded. The paper analyses this new treaty that retains certain features of the Lomé and Cotonou conventions, but its structure and contents are substantially altered. (13 p.)

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE (ESRI)

Go ahead and trade: the effect of uncertainty removal in the EU's GSP scheme

by Ingo Borchert and Mattia Di Ubaldo

In 2014, the EU's generalized system of preferences (GSP) future trading conditions were reformed. The 2014 GSP+ reform increased GSP+ countries imports by about 45%. The effect is robust, taking into account other aspects of the reform, such as the reduction in GSP membership and changes in tariff margins, respectively. (36 p.)

FRIEDRICH-EBERT-STIFTUNG (FRIEDRICH EBERT FOUNDATION)

Domestic advisory groups in EU trade agreements: stuck at the bottom or moving up the ladder?

by Deborah Martens, Diana Potjomkina
@DianaPotjomkina and Jan Orbie @janorbie

Domestic advisory groups (DAGs) have been established and meet regularly at EU level and in most of the EU's trading partner countries. However, insufficient information-sharing and a lack of interest and interaction on the part of governments and the EC hamper the DAGs' work. Due to a lack of enforcement tools, the DAGs' impact on decision-making remains very low. (69 p.)

BUSSOLA INSTITUTE

A detailed anatomy of EU-GCC trade relations: past, present, and future

by Omar Al-Ubaydli

This report describes in detail the current status of trade relations between the EU and Gulf Cooperation Council and discusses the future prospects of the trade relationship. (30 p.)

NOTRE EUROPE - JACQUES DELORS INSTITUTE

RCEP: l'impact géopolitique d'un nouvel élan d'intégration commerciale

by Elvire Fabry @elvirefabry

This paper analyses the RCEP (Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership) that brings together fifteen countries from the Indo-Pacific region, including the ten members of ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations), and it was signed in November 2020. It also analyses the importance of this partnership, its consequences and its impact on the economic relation between China and the EU. (FR - 5 p.)

INSTITUT DER DEUTSCHEN WIRTSCHAFT (IW, KÖLN) GERMAN ECONOMIC INSTITUTE

Was das regionale Handelsabkommen für die EU und die deutsche Wirtschaft bedeutet – und was nicht

by Jürgen Matthes and Galina Kolev @galina_kolev

The RCEP is relevant for Europe, but it is over-estimated in some respects. Compared with EU trade agreements, trade liberalisation remains low. RCEP is not embarrassing for the EU. The spirit of RCEP – trade liberalisation and rules-based trade despite political conflicts – also corresponds to the EU's goals. Moreover, the EU is already present in the region with several FTAs or is negotiating them. (DE - 26 p.)

WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM

Mapping TradeTech: trade in the fourth industrial revolution

This report aims to shed light on the landscape of emerging trade technologies and consider the opportunities and challenges for each, ranging from AI to IoT to 3D printing. (47 p.)

THE EUROPEAN CENTRE FOR INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ECONOMY

World trade report: government policies to promote innovation in the digital age

by Marc Auboin, Marc Bacchetta, Cosimo Beverelli et al.

This report aims to deepen understanding about trends in trade, trade policy issues and the multilateral trading system. It looks at the role of innovation and technology policies in an increasingly digitalized world economy, and explains the role of the WTO in this changing context. (15 p.)

AFRICA

ÖSTERREICHISCHE GESELLSCHAFT FÜR EUROPAPOLITIK (AUSTRIAN SOCIETY FOR EUROPEAN POLITICS)

The African continental free trade area: the role of EU support for Africa's historic trade agreement

by Ioana Lungu

The African continental free trade area is an exceptionally ambitious project of Pan-African integration. Eliminating tariffs on intra-African imports is, however, not enough. Key issues such as non-tariff barriers, infrastructure and industrialisation need to be addressed for the agreement to deliver on its promises. (8 p.)

EUROPEAN UNION INSTITUTE FOR SECURITY STUDIES

Sahel climate conflicts? When (fighting) climate change fuels terrorism

by Luca Raineri [@Raineri_Lu](#)

The brief scrutinises three programmes rolled out in the Sahel to fight desertification, prevent food crises, and preserve wildlife which have ended up contributing to the encroachment of terrorist groups in the region. The lessons learnt help highlight the policy implications for existing and future efforts to fight violent extremism and promote sustainable development sponsored by the Sahel's international partners, including the EU. (8 p.)

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE (ESRI)

What does Paris mean for Africa? An integrated assessment analysis of the effects of the Paris agreement on African economies

by Kelly de Bruin and Victoria Ayuba

The African continent is expected to be particularly vulnerable to the economic impacts of climate change. This paper analyses climate change impacts and adaptation, by dividing Africa into 5 regions and including 7 specific climate change impacts. Different regions are more

vulnerable to different climate change impacts, depending on their development and regional characteristics. (37 p.)

OBSERVER RESEARCH FOUNDATION

What ails health systems in Africa? An economic perspective

by Daniel Mwai and Theresa Ndavi

In Africa, health systems are hobbled by leadership and governance challenges, extreme shortages of health workers, and health financing constraints. This brief discusses ways in which decision-makers can hurdle these challenges. (14 p.)

ASIA-OCEANIA

OBSERVER RESEARCH FOUNDATION

The Eastern corridor and the law of the sea: ensuring sea-lane security

by Pratinashree Basu [@PratinashreeBasu](#)

The Eastern corridor is a crucial highway for global trade flows, where any disruption could severely affect the global economy. The route includes also potential flashpoints such as the South China Sea. The author suggests it is imperative to explore maritime security legal framework gaps, and assess the potential risks of disruption in the economy and the rules-based global order. (34 p.)

OBSERVER RESEARCH FOUNDATION

The India-China border question: an analysis of international law and state practices

by Utkarsh Pandey

Over the years, India has attempted to find political and legal solutions to its border dispute with China, with little success. This paper argues that a resolution remains elusive due to an inadequate understanding and enforcement of International Law. It examines the sustainability of China's position and India's current approach to the dispute. (34 p.)

EASTERN PARTNERSHIP

FOUNDATION FOR EUROPEAN PROGRESSIVE STUDIES

The Belarusian quest for democracy: a moral commitment for all Europeans

by Fernando Rejón

This paper notes that it is imperative democrats across the EU remain acutely aware of the moral duty to sustain the conversation and raise academic and political engagement as a proof of solidarity vis-à-vis Europeans fighting against authoritarianism. (15 p.)

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

INSTITUTE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Policy lessons from the deep decarbonization pathways in Latin America and the Caribbean project

by Chris Bataille [@bataille_chris](#) (ed.)

This report showcases the results of the deep decarbonization pathways for Latin America and the Caribbean project. It shows that technical solutions exist to transition towards net-zero carbon emissions while preserving economic growth. It also shows that decarbonization is possible and can bring social and economic benefits. (74 p.)

MIDDLE EAST / NORTH AFRICA (MENA)

INSTITUTO ESPAÑOL DE ESTUDIOS ESTRATÉGICOS

Irán: ¿Una oportunidad perdida para la diplomacia europea?

by Arturo Dueñas Díaz

The joint comprehensive action plan of 2015 that limited Iranian nuclear ambitions was the result of twelve years in which European mediation achieved an agreement that ended important discrepancies, especially between the US and Iran. This article

analyses the role of the EU after the US withdrawal from the agreement in 2018. (ES - 17 p.)

EUROPEAN COUNCIL OF FOREIGN RELATIONS

Gulf of difference: how Europe can get the Gulf monarchies to pursue peace with Iran

by Cinzia Bianco [@Cinzia_Bianco](#)

The paper assesses the different perceptions and strategic objectives of the Gulf monarchies with regard to Iran. It describes how Europeans – both core groups of European countries and the EU's institutions – can use that knowledge to play a more meaningful role in helping the incoming Biden administration resurrect the JCPOA and advance a regional security dialogue. (26 p.)

WESTERN BALKANS

INSTITUT PRO EVROPSKOU POLITIKU EUROPEUM (EUROPEAN INSTITUTE FOR EUROPEAN POLICY)

Report: Western Balkans in 2020. Elections in Serbia, Croatia, North

by Žiga Faktor [@ZigaFaktor](#) and Jana Juzová

Four elections – Serbian, North Macedonian, Montenegrin and Croatian – were held in the shadow of the pandemic, yielding a mixture of novel political constellations and consolidation of old. The authors analyse each of the them, as well as what they portend for the future of the region and the EU's enlargement policy. (22 p.)

THE BALKANS IN EUROPE ADVISORY GROUP (BIEPAG) / EUROPEAN POLICY CENTRE

Between a rock and a hard place: public opinion and integration in the Western Balkans

by Corina Stratulat , Marko Kmezić [@markokmezić](#), Matteo Bonomi [@bonomimat](#) et al.

Citizens of countries in the WB are still, overall, positive about the prospects of their countries joining the EU. However, the path

to EU membership is a long one. This paper analyses the main factors of the current situation and offers suggestions on the way forward. (8 p.)

CENTAR ZA EVROPSKE POLITIKE (EUROPEAN POLICY CENTRE)

What do citizens tell us about administrative services? The second public perception survey in the Western Balkans

by Stefan Stojković

This paper demonstrates public perceptions from four out of six countries in the WB and suggest that state administration has become more citizen oriented in the past two years. Citizens throughout the region are increasingly aware of electronic access to administrative services. Interesting country-level variations are noted in different aspects of the survey. (11 p.)

GROUP FOR LEGAL AND POLITICAL STUDIES

How Western Balkans growth prospects have been impacted by the Covid-19 crisis and recovery packages

by Barbara Matias

This report looks into the WB in particular, with a further deeper dive into the Kosovar national reality. It analyses general crisis mitigating policies and economic recovery tools adopted in the region, and assesses their impact. It also explores the financial crisis and the recession the region is entering, and looks at the EU support in the aftermath of the crisis outbreak. (19 p.)

GROUP FOR LEGAL AND POLITICAL STUDIES

The importance of an internal dialogue on Kosovo Serb integration

by Marije Renate Luitjens Tol

This paper analyses the possibilities for a successful internal dialogue between Kosovo and Serbia. It explains the origins of the integration debate as well as the most important obstacles to the internal integration of Kosovo Serbs. It concludes with a number

of recommendations, which could be useful for a new attempt to initiate a bottom-up dialogue on internal integration. (23 p.)

ATLANTIC COUNCIL

North Macedonia on the threshold of Europe

by Dimitar Bechev [@DimitarBechev](#) and Damir Marusic [@dmarusic](#)

In the early 2000s, North Macedonia was a frontrunner on the path to EU, but it has since been overtaken by a number of its neighbours. This report offers a snapshot of a North Macedonia finally on the threshold of EU accession talks. It outlines the myriad challenges that North Macedonia faces as it struggles to chart a path forward in Europe's shadow. (24 p.)

CHINA

ULKOPOLIITTINEN INSTITUUTTI (FINNISH INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS)

China's policy towards Belarus and Ukraine: a limited challenge to Sino-Russian relations

by Ryhor Nizhnikau and Marcin Kaczmarek [@M_Kaczmarek](#)

This paper overviews the evolution of China's cooperation with Belarus and Ukraine. It argues that China deliberately opts to steer clear of power competition in the region and chooses to recognize both Russian special interests in the region and countries' own foreign policy choices, be it they integrate with the EU or Russia. (8 p.)

UNITED KINGDOM / BREXIT

BARCELONA CENTRE FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Brexit, the "Area of freedom, security and justice" and migration

by Emmanuel Comte [@EmmanuelComte](#)

This brief focuses on EU–UK negotiations on the movements of third-country nationals. It presents the formation of preferences of both sides and creates a map of existing external

differentiation in this area, which supplies models for the future EU–UK relationship. (12 p.)

INSTITUTE FOR PUBLIC POLICY RESEARCH

The agreement on the future relationship: a first analysis

by Marley Morris [@MarleyAMorris](#)

The paper analyses the UK - EU deal on their future relationship, specifying that it constitutes one of the most critical agreements the UK negotiated in the post-Brexit era because it represents the basis of the future economic and security relationship with its nearest trading partner. (13 p.)

INSTITUTE FOR GOVERNMENT

How to design a successful industrial strategy

by Giles Wilkes [@Gilesyb](#)

As the UK finally left the structures of the EU, the government is expected to unveil an industrial strategy to address the country's long-standing economic ills. This report argues that the case for an ambitious industrial strategy is strong, and aligns well with other government agendas like net zero and levelling up. (49 p.)

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

ATLANTIC COUNCIL

Engaging Europe: a transatlantic digital agenda for the Biden administration

by Frances G. Burwell

While the US has been embroiled in electoral politics throughout 2020, the EU has spent the year laying out an ambitious agenda for regulating digital technology and policy. According to the paper, the Biden administration must engage with the EU on these issues promptly and energetically, and with a clear understanding of its own ambitions in digital policy. (18 p.)

NOTRE EUROPE - JACQUES DELORS INSTITUTE

Making transatlantic relations green a common agenda for climate action

by Thomas Pellerin-Carlin [@ThPellerin](#) and Edward Knudsen [@ted_knudsen](#)

Joseph R. Biden's victory in the November election has raised hopes for greater transatlantic cooperation. This brief analyses the strategy the new Administration will adopt towards the EU as well as the cooperation in areas like climate change, trade and health. (5 p.)

NOTRE EUROPE - JACQUES DELORS INSTITUTE

From expectation to action

by Geneviève Pons [@genevieve_pons](#) and Paola Tanguy

This paper addresses the environmental strategy of the new Biden Administration, including internationally significant agreements on climate, biodiversity, the ocean, and trade. It also analyses the potential restructuring of EU-US cooperation ahead of the major environmental negotiations to come. (6 p.)

ULKOPOLIITTINEN INSTITUUTTI (FINNISH INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS)

President Joe Biden and the restoration of US global leadership: turning the tide?

by Ville Sinkkonen [@SinkkonenVille](#), Charly Saloniemi-Pasternak, Bart Gaens and Niklas Helwig [@NHelwig](#)

As president, Joe Biden will seek to re-establish US global leadership through serious engagement and cooperation. According to this brief, climate change, the Covid-19 pandemic, and nuclear weapons are three areas where he sees cooperation as essential. (8 p.)

BRUEGEL

Deglobalisation in the context of United States-China decoupling

by Alicia García-Herrero [@Aligarciaherrer](#) and Junyun Tan

After decades of increasing globalisation, there now seems to be a slowing, or even a turn to deglobalisation, meaning decelerating trade and investment and reduced global value chains. This trend seems to have accelerated because of the US' push to contain China in the context of their strategic competition. So far, however, there is less evidence of deglobalisation in terms of financial flows. (16 p.)

STIFTUNG WISSENSCHAFT UND POLITIK (GERMAN INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL AND SECURITY AFFAIRS)

The strategic partnership between Georgia and the United States: vision wanted

by Franziska Smolnik

The report notes that the biggest obstacle to a further deepening of the relationship is Washington's lack of a strategic vision for Georgia and the region. This strategic void places limits on Tbilisi's efforts to establish its own imagined geography in Washington. Without a clear US strategy the strategic partnership perpetuates Georgia's liminality, its suspension between "east" and "west". In this respect it resembles Georgia's association agreement with the EU. (33 p.)

STIFTUNG WISSENSCHAFT UND POLITIK (GERMAN INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL AND SECURITY AFFAIRS)

Cyber escalation: the conflict dyad USA/Iran as a test case

by Matthias Schulze [@percepticOn](#), Josephine Kerscher and Paul Bochtler

At the beginning of July 2020, a series of detonations in the Iranian nuclear fuel enrichment plant in Natanz triggered fears of a Stuxnet 2.0. The conflict dyad USA-Iran is particularly interesting from the perspective of cyber security research and international relations. The interaction between the two

cyber powers has a "cross-domain" dimension. (14 p.)

BROOKINGS INSTITUTE

Reframing US Syria policy: the road to Damascus runs through Moscow

by Daniel L. Magruder Jr. and Rodrick H. Mchaty

The paper shows that the US has strong motives to stabilize the country to prevent the resurgence of IS, reduce the Iranian proxy threat against Israel, and avert another refugee migration crisis. (10 p.)

CATO INSTITUTE

Space force: ahead of its time, or dreadfully premature?

by Robert Farley

In December 2019, Congress established the US Space Force as an independent uniformed military service within the Air Force. This analysis evaluates the reasoning behind its establishment, concluding that its creation is premature. Space Force lacks a strong institutional basis, an identifiable organizational culture, and an established foundation of strategic theory. (20 p.)

SECTION 4 - EU MEMBER STATES



GERMANY

ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΟ ΙΔΡΥΜΑ ΕΥΡΩΠΑΪΚΗΣ ΚΑΙ
ΕΞΩΤΕΡΙΚΗΣ ΠΟΛΙΤΙΚΗΣ (HELLENIC
FOUNDATION FOR EUROPEAN FOREIGN
POLICY)

[They need each other: reflections on Sino-German economic policy interdependence](#)

by Jens Bastian

The author notes that Chinese companies have created a wave of acquisitions across numerous sectors of corporate Germany. The involvement of Chinese companies in Germany's economy ranges from car manufacturing to the financial sector, transport infrastructure, retail as well as high-tech businesses. These dynamics in China – Germany economic relations have created a mixture of mutual dependence and policy challenges for both Beijing and Berlin. (23 p.)

OPEN SOCIETY FOUNDATIONS

[Einsatz gegen den Klimawandel ein Erfolgskonzept für das gesamte politische Spektrum](#)

by Jan Eichhorn [@eichhorn_jan](#), Sascha Nicke, and Luuk Molthof [@LuukMolthof](#)

According to a new research, a large majority of Germans expect policymakers to address the climate crisis, even though they are also grappling with the Covid-19 pandemic. Further, a majority of the study participants state that climate policy is relevant – and often even pivotal – as they decide for whom to vote, regardless of their party preference. This report concludes that contrary to

conventional wisdom nearly all political parties in Germany would benefit from putting forward specific policies to address climate change. (DE - 41 p.)

IRELAND

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RESEARCH
INSTITUTE (ESRI)

[Annual report on migration and asylum 2019: Ireland](#)

by Anne Sheridan

This report provides an overview of trends, policy developments and significant debates in the area of asylum and migration during 2019 in Ireland. It covers also political and international developments and statistical context, legal migration, international protection, unaccompanied minors and other vulnerable groups, borders, visas, irregular migration and return, integration and human trafficking. (170 p.)

GREECE

ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΟ ΙΔΡΥΜΑ ΕΥΡΩΠΑΪΚΗΣ ΚΑΙ
ΕΞΩΤΕΡΙΚΗΣ ΠΟΛΙΤΙΚΗΣ (HELLENIC
FOUNDATION FOR EUROPEAN FOREIGN
POLICY)

[Greece, China and the 17+1 initiative](#)

by George Tzogopoulos

In September 2020, less than a year after the visit of President Xi Jinping to Athens, Greece and China reiterated their joint commitment to further develop relations and jointly work on the Belt and Road Initiative. Greece's membership in the 17+1 Initiative offers new opportunities for both countries. This paper analyses Sino-Greek relations and explores how Greece could benefit from membership at the bilateral and multilateral levels. (21 p.)

SECTION 4 - EU MEMBER STATES

SPAIN

REAL INSTITUTO ELCANO

La presencia de España en Europa en las crisis del euro y de la pandemia

by José Luis Malo de Molina

The author explores the history of Spain in the EU, focusing on the euro crisis and Covid-19 periods and its challenges and opportunities. (ES - 25 p.)

CROATIA

EKONOMSKI INSTITUT, ZAGREB (INSTITUTE OF ECONOMICS, ZAGREB)

Energetika: obnovljivi izvori energije

by Biljana Kulišić and Ivana Rašić

In 2019, Croatia had 27.47 percent of energy from renewable sources in gross final consumption, of which electricity was 49.7 percent, and heating and cooling 36.8. At the same time, the year-on-year share increased by 0.4 percentage points, which can be attributed to the increase in electricity production, energy from renewable sources and the increase in the use of energy from renewable sources. (HR - 26 p.)

ITALY

LUISS SCHOOL OF EUROPEAN POLITICAL ECONOMY

A vision for Italy to seize a great opportunity: the choices the government must make to benefit from Next Generation-EU

by Carlo Bastasin [@CarloBastasin](#), Lorenzo Bini Smaghi [@LBiniSmaghi](#), Massimo Bordignon et al.

This paper affirms that the European funds of Next Generation-EU represent an unmissable opportunity to revive Italy, but also a great responsibility towards Italian and European citizens. To be up to this task, the measures currently discussed by the Government and Parliament ought to be more ambitious. (15 p.)

AUSTRIA

WIENER INSTITUT FÜR INTERNATIONALE WIRTSCHAFTSVERGLEICHE (THE VIENNA INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC STUDIES)

Die Qualität der Daseinsvorsorge in Österreichs Städten und deren Auswirkungen auf die Lebensumstände im Europavergleich

by Mario Holzner [@MarioHolzner](#) und Roman Römisch

The study provides an evidence-based analysis of the quality of services of general interest and their impact on living conditions in Austrian cities. (DE - 56 p.)

POLAND

KONRAD-ADENAUER-STIFTUNG

Bewegung(en) in Polens politischer Landschaft: Veränderungen im Parteiensystem deuten sich an

by David Gregosz and Leo Mausbach

The authors note that new actors and protest movements appeared on the political stage in Poland last year. The political landscape in Poland is generally characterized by high volatility. Do the current political framework conditions allow new forces to be established or do they necessarily even produce them? (DE - 5 p.)

FINLAND

ELINKEINOELÄMÄN TUTKIMUSLAITOS (RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF THE FINNISH ECONOMY)

Kyberuhat yleistyvät – miten Suomen vrtitykset pärjäävät?

by Juri Mattila, Jyrki Ali-Yrkkö and Timo Seppälä

Global demand of cybersecurity products and services is growing quickly. In Finland, however, this growth is restricted by a shortage of skilled cybersecurity professionals. As Finland invests heavily in the improvement of digital skills, the question arises whether these efforts are focused

correctly in regards to competences in cybersecurity. (FI - 12 p.)

ELINKEINOELÄMÄN TUTKIMUSLAITOS (RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF THE FINNISH ECONOMY)

The size of the digital economy in Finland and its impact on taxation

by Jyrki Ali-Yrkkö, Heli Koski [@heli_koski](#), Otto Kässi,
Mika Pajarinen [@MikaPajarinen](#) et al.

This report sheds light on the size and composition of the digital economy in Finland and its impact on the tax gap and tax system. The analysis shows that the share of value added generated by the digital economy in Finland has grown at a relatively slow pace during the 2010s. (102 p.)



INSTITUT FÜR WELTWIRTSCHAFT KIEL (KIEL INSTITUTE FOR THE WORLD ECONOMY)

Quantifying the demand, supply, and welfare effects of natural disasters using monthly trade data

by Gabriel Felbermayr [@GFelbermayr](#), Jasmin Gröschl
and Benedikt Heid

The authors estimate the short-run trade effects of natural disasters using monthly trade data and data on the physical intensity of earthquakes and storms. They find large negative effects for heavily indebted poor, least developed or landlocked developing countries but only small effects for other economies. Similar disasters have heterogeneous effects on countries' demand and supply, highlighting the importance of event-specific policies in the aftermath of disasters. (53 p.)

BROOKINGS INSTITUTE

Poverty hotspots and the correlates of subnational development

by Raj M. Desai, Homi Kharas and Selen Özdoğan

Economic prosperity is unevenly distributed across geography, even within national boundaries. Much of the evidence of subnational growth is hampered by inadequate attention to the spatial clustering of economic development. The authors seek to explain the determinants of subnational growth by taking into account possible neighborhood and spillover effects. (35 p.)

INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR DEMOCRACY AND ELECTORAL ASSISTANCE

Political finance reforms: how to respond to today's policy challenges?

by Yukihiro Hamada and Khushbu Agrawal

Political finance regulations must adapt and adjust to political, economic and societal changes. This report contributes to the discussion of the future of political finance by exploring trends, opportunities and challenges related to money. (37 p.)

OBSERVER RESEARCH FOUNDATION

Lessons from 2020

by Gaurav Dalmia

Many of the global trends reached tipping point. The author explains the 2020 events that stand out: the Covid reset; China peaks; green movement accelerates; space commerce gets real; and the two speed world. (19 p.)