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THINK TANK REVIEW

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

Throughout think tanks' September reports, a common thread of environmental concern unites many publications. The discussion on climate change touches numerous adjacent topics, with unique policy considerations emerging from each intersection. The assembled publications present the European Green Deal as a collection of programmes designed to lessen emissions and increase sustainability across the continent. Principal areas of interest include:

- the European Green Deal and its myriad of facets aimed towards alleviating climate change effects;
- carbon-neutrality efforts and compliance with the 'Fit for 55' guidelines (with 55% representing the targeted 2030 emissions reduction percentage);
- safe water management practices, particularly in terms of mitigating uncontrollable cross-border effects;
- contextualizing food security and agriculture investment in pandemic consumption patterns;
- incorporating geopolitics and finance into diplomacy to aid in uplifting developing nations' sustainability actions;
- the status and outcomes of climate initiatives already in action, like the REDD+ deforestation guidelines and the Blue Carbon coastal preservation;
- inherent tensions that come with implementing international environmental regulatory policies, as governments opt for different strategies depending on their own circumstances;
- the rise in climate financing and 'green' economic transitions to fund sustainable and carbon-neutral endeavours.

The **Covid-19 pandemic remains** prevalent in global headlines, with reports discussing points of unity and division inside individual countries. Numerous papers track the effects of the ongoing pandemic across **financial markets**, **social welfare**, and **industrial recovery**, as well as legislative measures to compensate for months of **lost revenue**. Developments in **industrial standards** will require significant **digital capacity building** across member states, according to the articles.

Economic papers combine the spheres of **climate change** and **finance** to investigate the options for balancing the costs of **environmentally-conscious activities** with the funding of continued **market recovery operations**; papers outline how individual member states tailor specific approaches based on their monetary priorities. Publications reveal the need for significant

* *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.*

adjustments to the **healthcare and labour systems** in light of depleted supplies and turbulent economies, proposing strategies to reconceptualise a **post-pandemic civil society**.

EU-related briefs have their gaze turned towards the future, contemplating what the Union and European society might resemble in the next decade and beyond. Authors consider factors such as **youth involvement in politics** and **election outcomes** while building their forecasts. Foreign and defence policy analyses additionally look ahead, predicting **novel threats** that may arise across a variety of sensitive fields (particularly **digital networks**) and crafting **counter-responses** on **military and political** fronts.

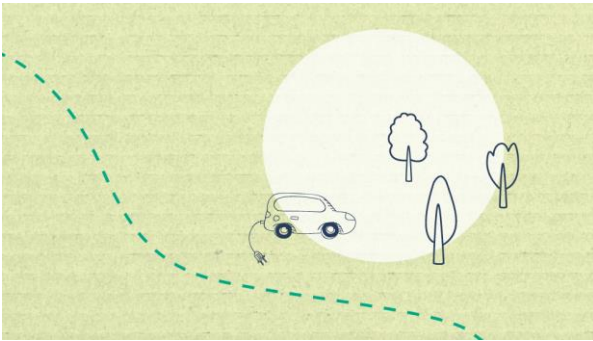
Coinciding with the **EU-Western Balkans** summit in October, several publications study the complicated relationship between the European Union and its close neighbours, shaped by **enlargement aspirations** and **differing political configurations**. Transatlantic affairs between the United States of America and the EU range from **supply chain statuses** to **increased AI transparency**. Several articles stress their positive expectations for **EU-Turkey relations**, if both entities were to reach compromise and find commonalities in **synergies** and **refugee accommodation**. **Russia** features prominently in various papers, revealing the nation's assertive **coastal ambitions** on both the **Crimean and Arctic fronts**.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

SPECIAL FOCUS	5
Green Deal	5
SECTION 1 - EU POLITICS AND INSTITUTIONS	9
SECTION 2 - EU POLICIES	11
Agriculture	11
Competitiveness (Internal Market, Industry, Research and Space)	11
Economic and Financial Affairs	11
Education / Youth / Culture / Sport	12
Employment / Social Policy / Health and Consumer Affairs	12
Environmental Issues	14
Justice and Home Affairs	14
Transport / Telecommunications / Energy	15
SECTION 3 - FOREIGN AFFAIRS	17
Foreign and Security Policy / Defence	17
Trade	18
Development	19
Africa	20
Asia-Oceania	20
Central Asia	20
Latin America and The Caribbean	21
Middle East / North Africa (MENA)	21
Western Balkans	22
China	23
United Kingdom / Brexit	23
United States of America	24
Russia	24
Turkey	26
SECTION 4 - EU MEMBER STATES	27
Czechia	27
Finland	27
France	27
Germany	27
Lithuania	28
Spain	28
Sweden	28
The Netherlands	29
MISCELLANEOUS	30



GREEN DEAL

E3G

[From blockage to breakthrough in EU industrial transition: benchmarks for Fit for 55 and beyond](#)

by Domien Vangenechten [@DVangenechten1](#) et al.

Industry decarbonisation is currently a bottleneck for the EU's target of reaching climate neutrality by 2050. This briefing sets four key tests for shifting EU industrial decarbonisation from a blockage to a breakthrough for the wider European Green Deal. (15 p.)

CENTRE FOR EUROPEAN POLICY STUDIES

[The Green transition, finance and biodiversity](#)

by René Karsenti et al.

This paper relates to the need of mobilising finance for the energy transition. The authors stress the opportunity for EU to act as a true pioneer. One of their conclusion for the future is that finance should be green and sustainable. (7 p.)

GROUP FOR LEGAL AND POLITICAL STUDIES

[The EU Green Strategy for the Western Balkans: Decarbonisation Process and Trends in the Region. What are the Options for Kosovo?](#)

by Nicasia Picciano

The author has divided his analysis in 5 sections : the purpose, scope and aims of the EU Green Deal; the need of implementing the Green Deal in the Western Balkans; the commitments and results achieved in the Western Balkans with a view to dealing with the decarbonization process; the future with renewables energy sources; and the usage of them in Kosovo. (35 p.)

DEUTSCHES INSTITUT FÜR ENTWICKLUNGSPOLITIK (DIE)

[Priorities for a Development-Friendly EU Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism \(CBAM\)](#)

by Clara Brandi

The European Commission's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism proposal envisages imposing a levy on imports in energy-intensive European sectors proportional to the carbon content of the goods concerned. This paper argues that the proposal creates the impression that it is mainly about improving domestic competitiveness at the expense of climate-policy effectiveness and development prospects. It calls on the EU to carefully evaluate the disadvantages for developing countries and aim for a development-friendly design of the mechanism. (4 p.)

EUROPEAN CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT POLICY MANAGEMENT

[An adaptive and context-driven approach to the water, energy and food nexus](#)

by Alfonso Medinilla

This paper looks at the often under-studied political economy dynamics of cross-sectoral and cross-border integration, and examines how and why integrated policies often face implementation gaps. It argues for a more adaptive and context-driven approach to the WEF (water-energy-food) nexus, one that

takes the nexus not as the outcome of a perfect masterplan, but as an iterative process of learning through addressing specific problems. (18 p.)

ISTITUTO AFFARI INTERNAZIONALI

[A more sustainable and resilient agri-food sector to better deal with the pandemic](#)

by Patrizia Brigidi et al.

The pandemic has highlighted the weaknesses of current food production and consumption models. The brief argues that more efficient, eco-sustainable and site integrated/specific agri-food production, optimized food distribution and management and healthier and more sustainable eating habits are required for a better food safety and nutrition security regime worldwide. (10 p.)

DEUTSCHES INSTITUT FÜR WIRTSCHAFTSFORSCHUNG (DIW BERLIN)

[The Price of Hesitation: How the Climate Crisis Threatens Price Stability and What the ECB Must Do about It](#)

by Yannis Dafermos et al.

This report presents empirical evidence of the impact of natural disasters on inflation in the Eurozone, highlighting the challenges facing the ECB to achieve price stability in the era of climate crisis. As the data shows that natural events have already had an impact on inflation in the past, the effect will only get stronger as climate change progresses, which is why the authors call on the ECB to take bold actions to safeguard macrofinancial stability. (65 p.)

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT THINK TANK

[Just Transition Fund](#)

by Agnieszka Widuto et al.

In accordance with proposals laid out in the European Commission's Green Deal, the Just Transition Fund was created to support EU regions most affected by the transition to a low carbon economy. This briefing details the timeline of the fund's formulation, from the initial budget proposal to the present marked effects on the fields most impacted by the socio-economic implications of industry reconfiguration. (14 p.)

BRUEGEL

[Can climate change be tackled without ditching economic growth?](#)

by Klaas Lenaerts et al.

This paper explores whether decarbonisation and economic growth are compatible or whether the world economy needs to grow less to be able to reduce greenhouse gas emissions fast enough to reach net zero in 2050. (30 p.)

GERMAN COUNCIL ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

[The political economy of green regulation](#)

by Sima Kammourieh et al.

This policy brief seeks to clarify the contours of the green regulatory field and take stock of existing initiatives. The authors note that the sustainable finance regulatory agenda carries a significant risk of geo-economic tension that could undermine cooperation and climate mitigation, which requires a varied series of approaches to address different needs in the sustainability policy space or value chain. (16 p.)

ECOLOGIC INSTITUTE

Fixing financial, economic and governance structures to save forests and the ocean, and enhance their contributions to climate change solutions*by R. Andreas Kraemer et al.*

The brief provides the background of two proposed regulation mechanisms: REDD+ (a series of guidelines to reduce the effects of deforestation and enhance the Global South's carbon stocks) and Blue Carbon (a global initiative focused on the preservation of coastal biospheres). The publication goes on to propose that, through funding, the G20 help strengthen the REDD+ climate instrument for forests and extend it to Blue Carbon from marine ecosystems. (17 p.)

E3G

Phasing down gas use in Europe: benchmarks for gas in Fit for 55*by Raphael Hanotaux  @R_Hanoteaux et al.*

Fossil gas is the next frontier for energy systems decarbonisation, already responsible for a quarter of the CO2 emissions in the EU. This briefing provides five benchmarks for a successful transition away from fossil gas in the EU legislation. (13 p.)

ISTITUTO AFFARI INTERNAZIONALI

Local governance of infrastructure financing to promote sustainable and inclusive cities*by Nicola Bilotta et al.*

The paper highlights the role of the cities in a green and just recovery. It addresses the challenges of transforming urban infrastructure design and suggests proposals at various levels, including the possible role of the G20. (13 p.)

WILFRIED MARTINS CENTRE FOR EUROPEAN STUDIES

The European Green Deal and the Middle Class*by Lucie Tungul et al.*

This collaboration by primarily Czech authors assembles reports covering various facets of the European Green Deal in relation to Czech and European middle classes. The publication looks into the opportunities and challenges that the Green Deal might bring, particularly for the population of the Czech Republic. (68 p.)

CHATHAM HOUSE

Climate change risk assessment 2021 - The risks are compounding, and without immediate action the impacts will be devastating*by Daniel Quiggin et al.*

In preparation for the UN Climate Change Conference (COP26), to be held in Glasgow in November 2021, signatories to the 2015 Paris Agreement on climate change are for the first time revising their climate mitigation plans, or nationally determined contributions (NDCs). This research paper highlights the risks and likely impacts if the goals set under the Paris Agreement are not met and the world follows an emissions pathway consistent with recent historical trends. (50 p.)

INSTITUT MONTAIGNE

Europe's energy transition: a common challenge*by Christian Gollier et al.*

This report proposes guidelines to accelerate and complete the European Green Deal in order to move towards a unified European strategy for energy transition that integrates the divergent interests of the different member states and accompanies the effects of this transformation over time. The authors list a series of proposals, followed by specific recommendations of actions to pursue, ranging from collating agencies into a single authority to developing carbon accounting systems. (132 p.)

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT THINK TANK

Energy Performance of Buildings Directive 2010/31/EU: Fit for 55 revision*by Susanna Tenhunen*

This publication takes a look at the transposition and implementation of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD), whose purpose is to systematically enhance the energy performance of buildings and to increase the level and depth of renovations. The ex-post analysis of the EPBD found that by and large it has fulfilled both its general and specific goals. However, reports and studies reveal that there is a significant unexploited energy-efficiency potential in buildings renovation. (42 p.)

DEUTSCHES INSTITUT FÜR
ENTWICKLUNGSPOLITIK (DIE)**Working together to achieve the Paris climate goals and sustainable development***by Steffen Bauer et al.*

Achieving the targets set in the Paris Agreement requires collective efforts from developed and developing economies. This study argues that raising the ambition levels of developing countries depends largely on the political will in those nations and on them having predictable and reliable support from their international partners. It aims to show how transformative change can bring about sustainable development, prevent climate change from spiralling out of control and address challenges in a development-friendly manner. (182 p.)

REAL INSTITUTO ELCANO (ELCANO
ROYAL INSTITUTE)**Is the French recovery and resilience plan climate-compatible? A preliminary analysis***by Nicolas Berghmans*

France has climate change as a central pillar of its recovery and resilience plan, with significant additional funds devoted to key sectors where emission reductions have been lagging. However, additional sectoral policy changes will be necessary to put the country on track to achieve its 2030 and 2050 climate objectives. (12 p.)

E3G

Deutsche Außenpolitik in einer klimawandelnden Welt: Handlungsempfehlungen für die neue Bundesregierung*by Jule Koenneke  @julekoenneke et al.*

The fight against climate change and an orderly global transition towards a climate-neutral global economy are crucial for ensuring security and prosperity within and outside Europe's borders. This briefing outlines a coherent climate foreign policy and presents seven policy recommendations for action with which the new Federal Government can strategically use its foreign policy for international climate protection (13 p.)

GROUPE D'ÉTUDES GÉOPOLITIQUES

The green deal is the new social contract*by Laurence Tubiana*

The author presents the European Green Deal as a diplomatic tool for EU leadership and a chance to foster opportunities for positive international cooperation, while additionally acknowledging potential partnership tensions. The publication lists how changes to the European political system European, national, and local green deals could establish a fair ecological transition. (8 p.)



EUROPEAN COUNCIL ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Europe's invisible divides: How covid-19 is polarising European politics

by Ivan Krastev et al.

Europe's covid-19 experience has been a tale of two pandemics – and the differences in each story could haunt the continent for many years to come. Now that divisions have surfaced, the authors outline them in this policy brief. (26 p.)

ISTITUTO AFFARI INTERNAZIONALI

Differentiated EUrope 2035: Elaboration and evaluation of five potential scenarios

by Janis A. Emmanouilidis [@jaemmanouilidis](#)

This paper develops and evaluates five potential scenarios for a “differentiated EUrope 2035”: status quo differentiation; muddling upwards; fundamental disruption of differentiation; creation of an inner core; and a new supranational union. It explores the potential challenges/opportunities of the various forms of differentiation and identifies key factors determining the future. (34 p.)

ISTITUTO AFFARI INTERNAZIONALI

Differentiated integration as a conscious policy choice: the way forward

by Vittoria Meissner [@vimeissner](#) et al.

By investigating national political preferences on EU integration based on a new interview data set collected in nine EU and non-EU

countries, this paper discusses if the differentiated integration an unintended consequence of the European Union integration process or is it a conscious policy choice of national decision-makers. The paper outlines recommendations on how it might be used as a more strategic and conscious policy choice in the future. (20 p.)

EUROPEAN TRADE UNION INSTITUTE

One in, one out', an incongruous approach to the major European challenges

by Éric Van den Abeele

The policy brief reviews the ‘one in, one out’ Commission initiative; this principle consists in offsetting the new burdens arising from the Commission’s legislative proposals with an equivalent reduction in burdens already existing in the same policy area. The publication contrasts the two opposing schools of thought concerning this initiative, then concludes by emphasizing the need for strategic policy reform at the union-wide level. (9 p.)

GERMAN MARSHALL FUND OF THE UNITED STATES

Next-generation European political leaders' views on transatlantic cooperation

by Bruce Stokes

As claimed by the brief, the next generation of European political leaders believe the United States and Europe can work together in dealing with shared challenges such as China, technology, climate change, and security. While generally supportive of greater European self-reliance, young European parliamentarians see limits to the European Union’s autonomy. The upcoming generation of politicians is guardedly hopeful about the United States’ future reliability, particularly depending on the direction of climate change policies. (11 p.)

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT THINK TANK

Requirements for a single database of beneficiaries

by Willem Pieter de Groen et al.

To protect the financial interests of the EU and detect fraud, corruption and conflicts of interest, it is important to know who benefits from EU funds. This study assesses the requirements for a single EU database of beneficiaries. Such a database would overcome the current fragmentation in the databases of beneficiaries of EU funds, ensure completeness and obtain the relevant indicators for all beneficiaries, as well as improving transparency and minimizing corruption. (102 p.)

EUROPEAN COUNCIL ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Beyond Merkelism: What Europeans expect of post-election Germany

by Piotr Buras et al.

This paper defines Merkel's legacy and examines Europeans' expectations in the post-Merkel era. (30 p.)

TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL

For the common good or private interests? People's views of political integrity in the European Union

by Jon Vrushi  [@jonvrushi](#) et al.

Political corruption scandals, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic, have shown that decision-makers and corporate interests often collude at the expense of ordinary people in the EU. While this complicity and undue influence may happen behind closed doors and in subtle forms, ordinary citizens can see when resources and outcomes are skewed in favour of certain groups. This leads to lower levels of trust and the perception that the system lacks political integrity. This paper introduces a new measure in order to identify the main factors that affect these perceptions. (22 p.)

CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF DEMOCRACY

Territorial Just Transition Plans guidelines for a comparative evaluation framework

by Mariya Trifonova et al.

The publication serves as a comparative evaluation framework for the Territorial Just Transition Plans (TJTPs) that can be used by policy-makers and experts alike in the process of the plans' finalization. The three approaches covered by the paper (theoretical, methodical, and analytical) detail the elaboration of specific good practices serving to inform the potential revision and improvement of the strategic documents. (39 p.)



AGRICULTURE

FONDATION ROBERT SCHUMANN

[The Common Agricultural Policy 2023-2027: Change and continuity](#)

by Bernard Bourget

This article traces the development of the CAP for the years 2023-2027 adopted in June 2021. It considers the social, economic as well as environmental elements of the updated framework. (4 p.)

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT THINK TANK

[Long-term vision for rural areas: European Commission communication](#)

by James McElDowney

The brief analyses issues relating to demographic change, such as the loss of population from remote rural areas, lower levels of gross domestic product per capita, and poor access to services. The Commission's communication includes proposals for a rural pact engaging actors at EU, national, regional and local levels to support an action plan to support stronger, connected, resilient and prosperous rural areas, as well as pinpointing challenges and opportunities accompanying these initiatives. (8 p.)

COMPETITIVENESS (INTERNAL MARKET, INDUSTRY, RESEARCH AND SPACE)

THE HAGUE CENTRE FOR STRATEGIC STUDIES

[Is There Space for a Digital Non-Aligned Movement?](#)

by Latha Reddy et al.

This paper addresses the increasingly heated debate on digital issues, and the various geopolitical, economic and security concerns that have arisen out of them, with a focus on 5G implementation as a case study. It also analyzes the traditionalist notion of the Non-Aligned Movement ("NAM")—its concerns, advocacy efforts, and the space it occupies within this digital age. Furthermore it engages with the notion of Europe as the new face of non-alignment, and details the individual and divergent concerns plaguing leading European nations. (16 p.)

ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

INSTITUT FÜR WELTWIRTSCHAFT KIEL (IFW)

[Euro Area Autumn 2021: Recovery temporarily at slower pace](#)

by Jens Boysen-Hogrefe et al.

The euro area economy is rapidly approaching its pre-crisis production level. However, the authors of this study expect the recovery to slow down markedly in the upcoming winter, since previous output losses have largely been caught up and the pandemic is likely to continue to weigh on economic activity during the cold season. In addition, they point out supply chain bottlenecks which slow down industrial production now and probably in the months ahead. (DE – 19 p.)

DEUTSCHES INSTITUT FÜR WIRTSCHAFTSFORSCHUNG (DIW BERLIN)

Arbeitsintensive Unternehmen sind ein Katalysator für Geldpolitik und ihre Verteilungseffekte

by Jan Philipp Fritsche

In order to insure price stability the ECB regularly adapts its interest rates. Based on balance sheet data from over two million companies in the euro area this study shows that wages in labour-intensive companies decrease more strongly than in other companies in response to interest rate increases. Depending on the heterogeneity of firms within a country this can lead to uneven effects of the ECB's monetary policy across the Eurozone. (DE - 7p.)

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT THINK TANK

Inflation on the Upswing - Just a Hiccup or a Trend Reversal After All?

by Kerstin Bernoth et al.

Although the paper states that energy price volatility has recently been the largest contributor to movements in the headline inflation rate, the authors caution that there are other factors indicating that inflation in the euro area will remain elevated in the months ahead. Temporary factors, write the authors, will cause inflation to remain elevated in the coming quarters before decreasing; however, the publication identifies the biggest risk for the further development of inflation is a rise in inflation expectations. (34 p.)

EDUCATION / YOUTH / CULTURE / SPORT

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT THINK TANK

Youth in Europe: Effects of COVID-19 on their economic and social situation

by Regina Konle-Seidl et al.

The study analyses the effects of COVID-19 on youth unemployment, inactivity, social exclusion, work-based learning and mental health. Authors additionally analyzed the probability of longer-term "scarring effects", comparing the impact of the current crisis to

impacts observed during and in the aftermath of the global financial crisis in 2008/2009. Findings indicate successive containment periods as having exacerbated youth unemployment rates, laying the grounds for a possible "lockdown generation". (63 p.)

EMPLOYMENT / SOCIAL POLICY / HEALTH AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

ISTITUTO AFFARI INTERNAZIONALI

Industrial policies for health: The G20 must act now

by Smita Srinivas  [@Smita_Srinivas](#)

The article argues that in the aftermath of the pandemic it is time to focus on health enhancements rather than disease solutions; this requires attention to how industries interrelate and which institutions - rules, customs, norms and regulations - can be most effective. It considers the role of different actors including the UN's Security Council and the T20 task force. (7 p.)

EUROPEAN TRADE UNION INSTITUTE

EU employment dynamics: the pandemic years and beyond

by Stefan Jestl et al.

The economic shock induced by the pandemic has plunged European economies into a recession, as stated by this exploration into changing labor markets. The study looks into potential future employment dynamics across European industries and employment groups for the period up to 2026 by drawing on past sectoral trends and the latest macroeconomic forecast results from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the European Commission. (84 p.)

EUROPEAN TRADE UNION INSTITUTE

Job retention schemes in Europe : a lifeline during the Covid-19 pandemic

by Jan Drahokoupil et al.

This paper analyses the job retention schemes implemented in response to the Covid-19 crisis, showing quantitative trends and

differences in terms of expenditure on the schemes and the number of workers involved. The authors argue that the main issue is to find a design that balances the interests of all stakeholders. The paper concludes by drawing lessons from experiences with the Covid-19 pandemic in light of the discussion on whether and how permanent schemes should be established. (66 p.)

CARNEGIE EUROPE

Civil society and the global pandemic: building back different?

by Richard Youngs et al.

According to the publication's analysis, the gravity of the Covid-19 health emergency has pushed many civil society organizations (CSOs) to engage in new ways to help alleviate the pandemic's impact, including in political venues. The authors theorize that civil society is being reshaped by geopolitical competition, with activists also trying to fashion new economic, political, and geostrategic agendas post-recovery. (26 p.)

FOUNDATION FOR EUROPEAN PROGRESSIVE STUDIES

A European health union as the way forward for the health of the continent

by Vytenis Andriukaitis

The thesis proposes that the ongoing health crisis has highlighted the limits of existing European integration policies, with their emphasis on the development of the internal market while marginalizing healthcare. As a solution, the publication imagines a European Health Union to pool resources this amendment, states the author, would lead towards a more social Europe, as well as progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals and the Green Deal. (8 p.)

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT THINK TANK

Le droit à la santé, une perspective de droit comparé

by Jacques Ziller

The brief analyses the legal basis of the right to life, enshrined in the European Convention

on Human Rights, via the necessity of access to healthcare. Overlapping jurisdictions are further complicated by the ongoing pandemic. The proportionality of legislative obligations and sanctions, states the author, must take into consideration all the pertinent circumstances of a member state, particularly their number of Covid-19 cases and the state of their hospital systems. (79 p.)

LUISS SCHOOL OF EUROPEAN POLITICAL ECONOMY

Patterns of integration in global value chains and the changing structure of employment in Europe

by F. Bontadini et al.

This paper analyses the recent trends of countries' integration in European-based global value chains. The authors claim two potential sources of unbalances: the sectoral specialisation in knowledge intensive business services (KIBS), and the occupational categories that have benefited or been penalised by these trends. The paper concludes there exist qualitatively different integration patterns in Europe, with Eastern Europe rapidly integrating in high-tech manufacturing. (40 p.)

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT THINK TANK

EU health data centre and a common data strategy for public health

by Henrique Martins

In the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic, this study highlights that the EU must have the capacity to use information effectively in order to make data-supported public health policy proposals and inform political decisions. The brief outlines possible functions and characteristics of an EU health data centre, public health datafication multi-level process in the EU, and the creation of a central coordination and support structure with advanced digital public health functions. (97 p.)

EGMONT – ROYAL INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

[A revised European Semester under centralised management: the risk of overlooking social policy](#)

by Marcel Muraille

The present policy brief assesses past and present social developments in the framework of the European Semester, and the lessons to be learned from them. Although this paper focuses on the dynamics within the European Commission, it should be noted that similar tensions between social and economic affairs actors also arise within the Council. (6 p.)

NORWEGIAN INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS (NUPI)

[The Politics of Competence in Global Health: The European Commission's Global Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)

by Øyvind Svendsen

What was the European Commission's (EC) global response to the COVID-19 pandemic and how did it use the crisis to claim competence in the area of global health? This article explores the EC's global coronavirus response. In so doing, it suggests studying the crisis response in terms of how the EC struggled to be recognized as a competent player in the international community of states and institutions. (16 p.)

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

ECOLOGIC INSTITUTE

[Towards sustainable adaptation pathways: a concept for integrative actions to achieve the 2030 Agenda, Paris Agreement and Sendai Framework](#)

by Benedict Bueb et al.

This report introduces the concept of Sustainable Adaptation Pathways (SAPs) that can act as guidance when planning and implementing integrated policies that aim to foster sustainable adaptation measures. In addition, practical recommendations for implementing SAPs are derived, taking into account both enabling contextual factors and lock-in effects. (112 p.)

ECOLOGIC INSTITUTE

[Drivers of and pressures arising from selected key water management challenges: a European overview](#)

by Eleftheria Kampa et al.

As well as providing background information on the European Green Deal and related strategies, this report aims to give a European overview of the main drivers and pressures that are at the core of key water management challenges and which put European water bodies most at risk of not achieving key environmental objectives. The brief names measures that can be mobilised through better implementation of the existing legislative framework on water and the introduction of supplementary measures that further reduce key pressures. (74 p.)

EUROPEAN UNION INSTITUTE FOR SECURITY STUDIES

[Green Digital Diplomacy: Time for the EU to lead](#)

by Patryk Pawlak et al.

This brief discusses the effects of data use on the environment and presents a green digital diplomacy approach for the EU, with an emphasis on three areas: green data coalitions, shared responsibility and green 'digital by design'. (8 p.)

JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS

ZENTRUM FÜR EUROPÄISCHE WIRTSCHAFTSFORSCHUNG (ZEW)

[The Legacy of State Socialism on Attitudes toward Immigration](#)

by Martin Lange

In this study, the author shows that individuals exposed to life under state socialism have formed and persistently hold different attitudes toward immigration. Based on panel data from East and West Germany, the study finds a difference in attitudes toward immigration that is persistent over time and across space, and is largest for cohorts born and raised under state socialism. This gap in attitudes can be traced back to a longer-term deterioration in trust. (54 p.)

MIGRATION POLICY INSTITUTE

"Diversifying" social investment: European welfare states and immigrant integration in the wake of the COVID-19 crisis

by Anton Hemerijck et al.

This report explores whether the social-investment approach to welfare states could serve as a tool for post-pandemic recovery—particularly in diverse, immigrant-receiving societies. (31 p.)

MIGRATION POLICY INSTITUTE

Healing the gap: building inclusive public-health and migrant integration systems in Europe

by Jasmijn Slootjes [@JasmijnSlootjes](#)

This report examines both the impact of the pandemic on Europe's migrant populations and how European governments and nongovernmental actors have responded, including with initiatives to improve health-care accessibility. (30 p.)

RAHVUSVAHELINE KAITSEUURINGUTE KESKUS (INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR DEFENCE AND SECURITY)

Pushed to the limit? Italian and Spanish lessons from the migration crises

by Giulia Prior et al.

Lithuania, Latvia and Poland have been experiencing major pressure caused by illegal migrant flows from Belarus. Countries like Italy and Spain have been traditionally at the front line of irregular migration. The aim of this paper is to provide some valuable insights about the management of migration emergencies based on the experiences of Spain and Italy. (13 p.)

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

Respect for the rule of law in the case law of the European Court of Justice: a casebook overview of key judgments since the Portuguese judges case

by Laurent Pech [@ProfPech](#) et al.

In recent years, the European Court of Justice has strengthened the rule of law as a binding value within the EU. This change is the result of several landmark rulings in the period 2018 to 2021, which should be seen in the context of the decline of the rule of law in some Member States. The authors unveil a profound change of the EU as a constitutional system. (235 p.)

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

A "new" pact on migration and asylum? The European migration policy path-dependency

by Agathe Helluin

The author explains how the European Commission describes the new pact on migration and asylum. This new pact undoubtedly captures the expectation that the EU will fully reshape its migration policy by recognising its limits and shortcomings. (7 p.)

TRANSPORT / TELECOMMUNICATIONS / ENERGY

WILFRIED MARTENS CENTRE FOR EUROPEAN STUDIES

Qualified majority voting in EU foreign policy: make it so

by Niklas Nováky

This paper makes a case for extending qualified majority voting (QMV) to the EU's Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP), the Union's main framework for collective external action. The benefits, state the author, would boost the resilience of the EU's foreign-policy system to third-country influence,

facilitate the emergence of a common strategic culture among the member states and mitigate the risk that the tone of common European foreign policy is set in various mini-lateral forums outside the EU. (26 p.)

strategic decision-making. A main conclusion and recommendations finalize this report. (102 p.)

EUROPEAN POLICY CENTRE

Towards circular e-waste management: How can digitalisation help

by Stefan Šipka

As the EU explores ways to promote the twin digital and green transition, improving e-waste management provides a timely and important case in practice. The policy brief recommends routes of action, such as creating e-waste value chains, supporting sustainable technology development, and elaborating on regulations, to lessen the damaging effects of improper electronic waste disposal and treatment. (24 p.)

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT THINK TANK

Biometric recognition and behavioural detection : Assessing the ethical aspects of biometric recognition and behavioural detection techniques with a focus on their current and future use in public spaces

by Christiane Wendehorst et al.

The brief questions whether existing and proposed legislation adequately addresses ethical and fundamental rights issues in the realm of public and private biometrics. The findings of this publication inform the authors' recommendations of policy amendments to prevent the potential misuse of large-scale surveillance of individuals via intrusive biometric identification and tracking, in addition to AI bias towards various ethnic groups. (5 p.)

EUROPEAN UNION INSTITUTE FOR SECURITY STUDIES

International cyber capacity building: global trends and scenarios

by Robert Collett et al.

The authors identify four trends in cyber capacity building and extrapolates their development to explore four potential scenarios that can inform capacity builders'



FOREIGN AND SECURITY POLICY / DEFENCE

FONDATION POUR LA RECHERCHE STRATÉGIQUE

Financing the post-Kabul Alliance: the challenges of the reform of NATO's common funding

by Benoit d'Aboville

The brief discusses the possible implications of a significant increase in NATO funding after the Kabul withdrawal. The author identifies three key areas of dissent among various EU member states and allies: the purposes and current limitations of the common funding; the challenges for NATO regarding new financial needs; and the way ahead for the next summit in Madrid (following an unsuccessful NATO meeting on the budget subject. (8 p.)

GLOBSEC

Thinking about hybrid war and the 'imagination race'

by Mark Galeotti

Resisting today's and tomorrow's threats depend not just on resources, planning and societal cohesion, but also on a clear understanding of the vulnerabilities any antagonists may seek to exploit. The policy brief asserts that after engaging in arms races and space races, so-called 'imagination' races are the next step in global disputes. The author suggests considering what unforeseen challenges may arise, and build responses around how these 'imaginary' attacks may be addressed. (4 p.)

OŚRODEK STUDIÓW WSCHODNICH (CENTRE FOR EASTERN STUDIES)

The EU's security and defence policy: in search of a compass

by Justyna Gotkowska

The EU is currently preparing the Strategic Compass which will set the framework for its political, military and financial activities over the next 5 - 10 years. The paper offers an insight into the process, outlining difficulties, progress and perspectives related to the development of the strategy. It focuses on the areas of crisis management, resilience, partnerships and capability development. (11 p.)

FONDATION ROBERT SCHUMANN

After the OECD-Deal: Transatlantic Cooperation and International Corporate Tax Reform

by Ben Judah et al.

This articles delves into the international tax reforms proposed by the OECD framework signed by 130 countries in July 2021. It dissects the various interests at play on both sides of the Atlantic in enacting the reforms, as a divided EU could scupper the Biden administration's agenda. (16 p.)

INSTITUT DE RELATIONS INTERNATIONALES ET STRATÉGIQUES

CEMC: Climate change evaluation Methodology for military camps

by François Gemenne et al.

Climate change has been mentioned for several years in armed forces' strategic documents. This study report presents the CEMC approach, which is characterized by four features: 1) systemic/interactive, 2) systematic, 3) qualitative and 4) quantitative. (7 p.)

NEDERLANDS INSTITUUT VOOR INTERNATIONALE BETREKKINGEN - CLINGENDAEL (NETHERLANDS INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS)

Sharing the Burden, Sharing the Secrets: The future of European intelligence cooperation

by Danny Pronk et al.

This report discusses the opportunities for enhanced European intelligence cooperation in light of the key challenges facing Europe over the next ten years, as identified in the Strategic Monitor 2020-2021, Geopolitical Genesis: Dutch Foreign and Security Policy in a Post-COVID World. (44 p.)

GERMAN COUNCIL ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

EU civilian crisis management in 2030 : test- run of scenario-based planning

by Florence Schimmel

The publication describes the EU's crisis management missions, and how these might be better planned. The thesis asserts the EU should have a central body to define and organize the capabilities needed to address future conflicts. Scenario-based foresight offers a workable method for identifying the probable future demand for civilian crisis management capabilities and the required contributions from member states. (9 p.)

FONDATION ROBERT SCHUMANN

The AUKUS agreement, what repercussions for the European Union?

by Elie Perot

The consequences of the trilateral partnership AUKUS could reverberate at the EU level, as this paper suggests. It describes the goals of the agreement, the political response to it, and the extent to which it caused a 'europeanised' diplomatic crisis. (5 p.)

TRADE

EUROPEAN CENTRE FOR INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ECONOMY

From SMEs to unicorns: what role for trade, standards and new tech?

by Lucian Cernat

This paper looks at the role of trade policy in influencing the complex interplay of firm size, technological progress and ability to use the opportunities offered by global markets. 'Unicorns', small firms that quickly grew to very high market value and global reach, set new technological standards in their sectors during the Covid-19 pandemic, a trend that will set the tone for emerging trade practices. (13 p.)

REAL INSTITUTO ELCANO (ELCANO ROYAL INSTITUTE)

La estrategia de política comercial de la UE y sus implicaciones para España

by Enrique Feás

The new EU trade policy strategy focusing on the concept of "open strategic autonomy" is an attempt to use this tool as an active instrument for defending and promoting EU's strategic interests and values in an increasingly complex and multipolar world. Putting the broad concept of "open strategic autonomy" into practice will not be come without provoking geopolitical tensions with other trading blocs, which could sometimes harm Member States highly dependent on the world trade rules framework, such as Spain. (ES - 7 p.)

CHATHAM HOUSE

US and European strategies for resilient supply chains : balancing globalization and sovereignty

by Marianne Schneider-Petsinger

The US, the EU and the UK hold a leading position in international trade and the global economy, and enjoy wide-reaching economic partnerships with Asia-Pacific nations. This paper offers insights into how the US and European governments can harness an array of public policy tools to protect strategic supply chains without sliding into protectionism and while managing resultant trade-offs. (40 p.)

IW GERMAN ECONOMIC INSTITUTE

[The transatlantic economic relations and their outstanding significance for the future of the European and the German economy](#)

by Galina Kolev

The brief emphasises the crucial trade connection between the United States and the European Union, a partnership that remains more important than ever with the rising prominence of Chinese trade hegemony. The author proposes a common transatlantic approach to shape the global economic order, including dealing with climate policy challenges, China-related issues, technology cooperation and the future of the WTO. (21 p.)

CENTRE FOR INTERNATIONAL GOVERNANCE INNOVATION

[Listening to users and other ideas for building trust in digital trade](#)

by Susan Ariel Aaronson  [@AaronsonSusan](#)

This paper argues that if trade policy makers want to achieve data free flow with trust, they must address user concerns beyond privacy. Survey data reveals that users are also anxious about online harassment, malware, censorship and disinformation. Finally, the author concludes that involving the broad public in digital trade policy making is necessary for digital trade agreements to facilitate trust and trust. (22 p.)

EUROPEAN POLICY CENTRE

[The EU-US Trade and Technology Council: mapping the challenges and opportunities for Transatlantic cooperation on trade, climate, and digital](#)

by Guillaume van der Loo et al.

The EU-US Trade and Technology Council was founded with the aim of deepening EU-US relations on trade and investment, and to avoid new technical barriers to trade by cooperating on key policies such as technology, digital policy issues and supply chains. The brief analyses the challenges that accompanied the agreement's creation, namely in the fields of trade, digital and climate; the conclusion proposes repairs to the transatlantic partnership's policies. (31 p.)

DEVELOPMENT

LSE IDEAS

[Human Security Business Partnership Framework: a risk-informed approach to achieve the SDGs](#)

The report summarises the Human Security Business Partnership (HSPB) Framework, a model to assist companies and investors to partner with governments, the UN system, and local stakeholders to achieve the ambitions of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Recognizing that more than one approach will be necessary, the publication states the importance of finding common ground among diverse actors to connect both national and global business aims. (19 p.)

REAL INSTITUTO ELCANO (ELCANO ROYAL INSTITUTE)

[G20 test of trust: coming together to narrow the pandemic divide](#)

by Beatriz Pérez de la Fuente

As at many times of crisis, the G20 has certainly stepped in once again during the COVID-19 pandemic. This paper looks into whether the G20 will be able to keep up the momentum throughout the recovery phase. A major concern in 2021 will be addressing the widening gap between the advanced economies and China, with widespread access to vaccines and the financial power to support their economies through the COVID-19 crisis, and many emerging markets and developing economies that are falling behind. (8 p.)

GERMAN COUNCIL ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

[Boosting G20 cooperation for WTO reform: leveraging the full potential of plurilateral initiatives](#)

by Mehmet Sait Akman et al.

This policy brief analyses plurilaterals on grounds of key criteria such as treatment of non-members, scope and membership. It then clarifies the key challenges of using plurilaterals as a negotiation approach to advance new sets of rules. The brief provides

SECTION 3 - FOREIGN AFFAIRS

G20 and WTO members with a set of practical recommendations for the successful operation and conduct of plurilaterals to support a multilateral order that serves the interests of all members and, in particular, those of developing countries. (18 p.)

AFRICA

EUROPEAN CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT POLICY MANAGEMENT

EU-Africa trade relations and the EPA process: ratification and sustainable development perspectives for Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana

by San Bilal

The author argues the need for the remaining member states of the European Union (EU), who have not yet done so, to ratify the Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs). The first ones have already been concluded with some African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries in 2007. This is the case, for instance, for the interim EPAs with respectively Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana, which are considered in this paper. (26 p.)

ASIA-OCEANIA

CENTRUM STOSUNKÓW MIĘDZYNARODOWYCH (CENTRE FOR INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS)

Afghanistan - A new beginning

by Krzysztof Płomiński

The paper examines the situation in Afghanistan after the seizure of power by the Taliban and its impact on security environment in the greater Middle East. It considers the role and interests of local and global players such as Russia, China, US and Europe. (PL - 20 p.)

VUB – BRUSSELS SCHOOL OF GOVERNANCE

The Geopolitics of Multilateralism: What Role for the EU in the Indo-Pacific?

by Luis Simon

This policy brief questions whether the EU's commitment to inclusive forms of

multilateralism in the region is sustainable as the Indo-Pacific becomes the epicentre of great power competition, and China and the United States increasingly look at international institutions through a competitive prism. Looking into the underlying tensions, this brief aims to feed into the EU's evolving strategic outlook towards the Indo-Pacific. (6 p.)

CENTRAL ASIA

OBSERVER RESEARCH FOUNDATION

An Examination of India's Policy Response to Foreign Fighters

by Kabir Taneja

This paper approaches the question of foreign fighters from an Indian policy perspective. While India's experience has been limited, this paper examines and compares two time periods: the Afghan war against the erstwhile Soviet Union that ended with a Soviet withdrawal in 1989; and during the rise of IS in Syria, Iraq and later in Afghanistan beginning 2010–11. A further aim of this paper is to initiate conversation within the ambit of India's counterterrorism strategy. (35 p.)

OBSERVER RESEARCH FOUNDATION

Nuclear Safety and Security in India: Emerging Threats and Response Preparedness

by Rajeswari Pillai Rajagopalan et al.

This report identifies the importance of nuclear safety and security by analysing existing programmes, practices, and infrastructures as well as insider threat, emergency response preparedness, and emerging technology threats. (21 p.)

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

ULKOPOLIITTINEN INSTITUUTTI (FINNISH INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS)

Engaging Brazil in the era of climate action: can Europe and the United States devise a new globalisation?

by Lauri Tähtinen [@lauritahtinen](#)

This paper assesses Brazil's North Atlantic relations, why and how European, as well as US institutional investors and fund managers, are formulating policy for Brasilia, practising geofinancial statecraft. (8 p.)

MIDDLE EAST / NORTH AFRICA (MENA)

BROOKINGS

Improving Syrian Refugee Inclusion in the Turkish Economy: How Can the International Community Help?

by M. Murat Erdoğan et al.

The report provides an overview of the conditions Syrian refugees are facing in Turkey, and their impact on the Turkish economy. It examines the impact of international assistance programs like the EU's FRIT and makes policy recommendations for Turkey and the international community, including the EU, to improve the current state. (54 p.)

BARCELONA CENTRE FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Turkey and the European Union: A difficult but critical relationship

by Manuel de la Cámara

For many years Turkey has been knocking at the EU's door but, time and again, the obstacles to accession have been too great, and many Turks believe that they will never ultimately be able to join. The AKP's rise to power and President Erdoğan's increasingly authoritarian leanings, combined with his ambitious foreign policy, mean that Turkey and the EU seem to be drifting apart. This paper points to the strategic importance of this

relationship which forces them to find paths for dialogue and cooperation. (8 p.)

GERMAN COUNCIL ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Egypt, the EU, and migration: an uncomfortable yet unavoidable partnership

by Dina Abdel Fattah

The publication notes that the EU's goal of reducing irregular migration by working with actual and potential transit countries around Europe has provided Egypt with greater leverage over its European neighbours, an effect decried by human rights advocates. The brief advises EU member states to focus on joint interests shared among themselves, as well as implement refugee protection and labour migration opportunities. (18 p.)

NEDERLANDS INSTITUUT VOOR INTERNATIONALE BETREKKINGEN - CLINGENDAEL (NETHERLANDS INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS)

Turkey's interventions in its near CRU Policy Brief abroad: The case of Libya

This policy brief gives an overview of Turkey's involvement in Libya. (12 p.)

ISTITUTO AFFARI INTERNAZIONALI

The Covid-19 crisis and the Mediterranean basin: overcoming disparities, promoting genuine cooperation

by Anis Germani et al.

The battle against covid has highlighted the need for global cooperation on health. The paper examines a set of Mediterranean countries to account for disparities not only between Europe and North Africa and the Middle East, but also within the two blocs. It concludes that the pandemic could be an opportunity to re-evaluate public health policies, contributing to build a truly cooperative, equitable and sustainable public health system in the Mediterranean basin. (37 p.)

FUNDACIÓN ALTERNATIVAS

Mediterranean trends 2030/2050. A prospective approach to the Southern Neighbourhood

by Itxaso Domínguez de Olazábal et al.

The Barcelona Process launched a quarter of century ago began a process of reflection and unification regarding Spanish and European Union (EU) policies towards the Mediterranean. However, this has not always translated into coherent, prudent, and timely policies given the changing structural conditions that occurred in the region. This document undertakes an in-depth foresight analysis of the Southern Neighbourhood, with a view to the medium- and long-term time horizons of 2030 and 2050 respectively (136 p.)

WESTERN BALKANS

INSTITUTE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE

Non-papers on border changes in the Western Balkans: promise of an easy solution or a hazardous game?

by Julianna Ármás et al.

Border changes are one of the challenges facing the Western Balkans. This paper provides a brief chronicle of the current border issues in the area. It discusses the feasibility of the redrawing of borders and the broader effects on neighbouring states like Hungary (13 p.).

ÖSTERREICHISCHES INSTITUT FÜR INTERNATIONALE POLITIK

Is Serbia Still a Troublemaker in the Balkans?

by Faruk Ajeti

Serbia is one of the largest countries of the Balkans whose troubled past also poses big dilemmas for the future, according to this report. Its author considers Serbia's latest political and military cooperation with Russia and China to be an effort to build a strategic neutrality with "Serbian characteristics" and argues that the ensuing dependency will

remain an additional challenge for the West. (5 p.)

KÜLÜGYI ÉS KÜLGAZDASÁGI INTÉZET

Western Balkans political-economic landscape and Hungarian economic presence

by Julianna Ármás et al.

With regard to the Western Balkans' economic troubles, the authors posit that physical proximity to the EU and legal integration of the region to the internal market may introduce macroeconomic stability and low labour costs, as well as have a positive impact on foreign direct investment. The policy paper proposes accelerating EU integration with the aim of resolving geopolitical tensions and supporting national economic reforms. (14 p.)

AUSTRIAN SOCIETY FOR EUROPEAN POLITICS

Countering the rule of law backsliding in the Western Balkans

by Katrin Böttger et al.

This policy brief puts forward three recommendations that take account of the current state of the EU, the rule of law situation and democratic backsliding of the pre-accession countries in the Western Balkans. These three points include prioritizing enlargement, increased promotion of rule of law, and a renewal of transatlantic cooperation. (6 p.)

GERMAN COUNCIL ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Geopolitics in Europe's Neighborhood : New Strategies for the Western Balkans and the Eastern Partnership

by Serafine Dinkel et al.

The policy brief analyses the fragile links between the European Union (particularly Germany), the Western Balkans, and the Eastern Partnership. Growing interest in these regions by China and Russia may motivate the EU to invest in strategic communication and credible cooperation to counter the activities of illiberal players. (4 p.)

CHINA

FONDATION POUR LA RECHERCHE STRATÉGIQUE

Promoting “soft connectivity”: China's standards-setting reforms and international ambitions

by Antoine Bondaz

The brief describes China's apparent standardization of strategy on the global stage, seeking to shape their own role according to traditional Chinese political values. According to the author, as scientific and technical cooperation with China comes under increasing scrutiny, it would be worthwhile reflecting on how this Chinese standards-setting effort could also become a security issue. (19 p.)

EUROPEAN CENTRE FOR INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ECONOMY

China's public procurement protectionism and Europe's response: the case of medical technology

by Fredrik Erixon et al.

This paper concerns China's market for medical technologies. It looks at how the Chinese state is using many different policies to provide support to the domestic industry and are in effect pursuing a policy for import substitution, gradually ejecting European firms from the Chinese market. The brief recommends having the World Trade Organisation (WTO) aid in remedying China's current policy for growing its domestic medical technology industry, and setting out the core policies and rules that should guide the future market for medical technologies. (43 p.)

NBR - THE NATIONAL BUREAU OF ASIAN RESEARCH

Taiwan's Response to Disinformation: A Model for Coordination to Counter a Complicated Threat

by Shih-Shinan Kao

The Taiwan government's team to oversee policies for countering disinformation and to coordinate with other agencies promotes a four-facet framework focused on identification,

debunking, combat, and punishment. This report examines efforts by the Taiwan government and civil society to counter disinformation and argues that Taiwan demonstrates unique strengths but still faces significant challenges that demand solutions. (30 p.)

KONRAD-ADENAUER-STIFTUNG

The Relations between China and the Gulf States

by Jonathan Fulton

Beyond the pandemic relations, the author analyses the increasing influence of China in the Gulf States, which could jeopardize their relationships with the U.S. (4 p.)

MERICIS

In the driver's seat : China's electric vehicle makers target Europe

by Gregor Sebastian

This report looks at the key developments and challenges to European governments and companies related to the actions of China's electrical vehicle makers. It explains how and why electrical vehicles (EV) offer a window of opportunity for China auto exports, with Europe being the main market for EVs. The report concludes that government subsidies for the China-based manufacturers could distort global markets, thus changing global production patterns. (24 p.)

UNITED KINGDOM / BREXIT

INSTITUTE FOR GOVERNMENT

Currency options for an independent Scotland

by Gemma Tetlow et al.

This paper delves into the macroeconomic strategies of an independent Scotland, specifically appraising its currency options, such as joining a currency union like the euro-zone. The discussion weighs the merits and drawbacks of possible currency regimes. (62 p.)

CASE – CENTER FOR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC RESEARCH

Restoring "lost connections" between the EU and the UK as a consequence of Brexit through local and regional authorities

by Machteld Bergstra et al.

Although Brexit itself was negotiated at the highest levels of national governments and EU authorities, it also impacted local communities and regions in the EU and the UK. The study analyses the main policy areas affected and assesses possibilities for future cooperation. It also presents examples of functioning cooperation frameworks and successful initiatives that can be used by local authorities to leverage future cooperation opportunities. The last section provides conclusions and recommendations. (47 p.)

INSTITUTE FOR PUBLIC POLICY RESEARCH

Solving the puzzle: Delivering on the promise of integration in health and care

by Parth Patel

The UK government is moving ahead with proposals to reorganise the health service. The author analyses the reforms proposed by the government. This represents an opportunity to break with the past. (30 p.).

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

BARCELONA CENTRE FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

20 años después del 11-S: guerra imposible, paz improbable

by Moussa Bourekba et al.

The speed of the Afghan government's fall and the Taliban's return to power - after twenty years of confrontation with US troops and their allies - are questioning the meaning and relevance of the "War on Terror" started by George W. Bush. According to this note, the fight against terrorism contributed to the jihadist terrorist threat's expansion in the world, rather than eliminating it, resulting in significant setbacks in human rights and in individual and collective freedoms. (ES - 6 p.)

NEW AMERICA FOUNDATION

Cracking Open the Black Box. Promoting Fairness, Accountability, and Transparency Around High-Risk AI

by Spandana Singh et al.

This report provides an overview of those widely-discussed mechanisms for promoting fairness, accountability, and transparency (FAT) around algorithmic systems, with the goal of discussing the strengths and limitations of these approaches and holistically considering how these mechanisms fit together into the overall FAT landscape. (43 p.)

NEW AMERICA FOUNDATION

Coastal Risk is Rising: How Will We Respond?

by Dona Stewart

This report examines the increased threat of climate change to coastal communities, the weaknesses of current local and federal policies to manage this heightened risk, and the recent introduction of eminent domain as a policy tool for involuntary managed retreat. (21 p.)

CENTRE FOR STRATEGIC AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

Learning the Right Lessons from the Afghan War

by Anthony H. Cordesman

The author suggests that the US must examine a range of lessons learned from the Afghan War--not simply its end. (128 p.)

RUSSIA

РОССИЙСКИЙ СОВЕТ ПО МЕЖДУНАРОДНЫМ ДЕЛАМ (RUSSIAN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS COUNCIL)

Russia–China Dialogue: The 2021 Model

by Alexey Maslov et al.

The annual "Russia–China Dialogue" report is aimed at monitoring and assessing the dynamics of Russia–China relations across a comprehensive range of areas as well as

providing expert recommendations on encouraging interaction between Moscow and Beijing. This report summarizes the results of bilateral cooperation in the 2nd–4th quarters of 2020 and the 1st quarter of 2021. (102 p.)

EUROPEAN COUNCIL ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Waves of ambition: Russia's military build-up in Crimea and the Black Sea

by Gustav Gressel

The article outlines the current military capabilities in the region. (35 p.)

CENTRE FOR STRATEGIC AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

Russia's Climate Gamble The Pursuit and Contradiction of Its Arctic Ambitions

by Heather A. Conley

The Russian government has positioned itself as a beneficiary of climate change and has welcomed a rapidly transforming Arctic that is warming three times faster than the rest of the world and becoming increasingly accessible. This study attempts to identify the most significant climate impacts across the Russian Arctic over the next 30 years to understand the broader implications for Russia's economy, internal political dynamics, and security posture. (64 p.)

CENTRE FOR STRATEGIC AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

Russia's "Hybrid Aggression" against Georgia: The Use of Local and External Tools

by Natia Seskuria

This paper illustrates how the five-day war in 2008 changed the regional security landscape in the South Caucasus and inflicted immense political and economic damage in Georgia. Since then, Georgia has been slowly fading away from the international agenda. Meanwhile, Russia has shifted from the use of conventional military means to hybrid tools that aim to re-establish the Kremlin's influence over Tbilisi in a more subtle and cost-efficient way. (5 p.)

CENTRE FOR STRATEGIC AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

Strengthening Russia's Nuclear Forces in the Arctic: The Case of the Kinzhal Missile

by Jyri Lavikainen

This report explores the role of Russia's new capability, the Kh-47M2 Kinzhal nuclear-capable air-launched ballistic missile, in Russia's military forces in the Arctic. (7 p.)

CHATHAM HOUSE

Advanced military technology in Russia : capabilities and implications

by Samuel Bendett et al.

This research paper offers an overview of Russia's modern military capabilities and advanced technologies in key sectors. It also discusses the effects of military innovation on Russian military thinking and its impact for the US, NATO, and their partners. (84 p.)

CHATHAM HOUSE

What deters Russia : enduring principles for responding to Moscow

by Keir Giles

For the past 30 years, NATO, the EU and the West in general have consistently struggled to find means of dissuading Russia from taking actions that they find undesirable or unacceptable. The absence of major multinational conflict in Europe argues a success of deterrence, primarily by NATO; but the prevalence of overt or covert hostile actions by Russia in Europe or elsewhere shows that this success is only partial. This research paper offers a range of recommendations for appropriate action and messaging to influence Russia away from destructive activities. (70 p.)

EUROPEAN UNION INSTITUTE FOR SECURITY STUDIES

Melting ice, frozen heart: Russia's posture on climate change and decarbonisation

by Stanislav Secrieru et al.

Despite a cooling of relations between the EU and Russia, that country could be an important

ally to fight climate change. In view of this, the article evaluates inter alia the impact of climate change in Russia, and whether there is a chance for the EU and Russia to cooperate effectively on climate matters. (8 p.)

TURKEY

EASTERN EUROPE STUDIES CENTRE

Expression of (non-)identified Lithuanian-Turkish interests In the common neighborhood of the European Union and Turkey

by Justinas Mickus

The shared neighbourhood between the European Union and Turkey covers a dynamic and strategically important geopolitical space, namely the South Caucasus-Black Sea and East Mediterranean-Middle East regions. The author analyses the common interests and the limits to sustainable cooperation and shares his conclusions and recommendations. (23 p.)

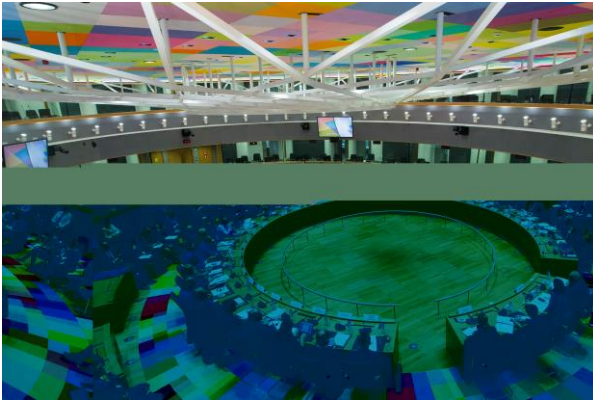
ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΟ ΊΔΡΥΜΑ ΕΥΡΩΠΑΪΚΗΣ ΚΑΙ ΕΞΩΤΕΡΙΚΗΣ ΠΟΛΙΤΙΚΗΣ (HELLENIC FOUNDATION FOR EUROPEAN FOREIGN POLICY)

Turkey's African adventure: taking stock of a new chapter in EU-Turkey relations

by Ioannis N. Grigoriadis  [@ingrigoriadis](https://twitter.com/ingrigoriadis) et al.

EU-Africa relations could improve further if the EU powers in the Sahel seek areas of cooperation and synergies with other states active in the region, including Turkey, claim the authors of this paper. (13 p.)

SECTION 4 - EU MEMBER STATES



CZECHIA

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

Jaké klima přinesou německé a české volby?

by Lucie Vinařská

In this paper, the author writes about what changes in the fight against climate change may be brought about by the upcoming parliamentary elections, which will take place this autumn both in the Czech Republic and in neighbouring Germany. (CS - 7 p.)

FINLAND

RAND EUROPE

Enhancing US-Finnish and regional defence cooperation: an exploratory analysis

by Gene Germanovich et al.

The authors explain that, given its geopolitical and historical context, Finland seeks to strike a balance between retaining sovereign defence capability and working closely with like-minded allies facing common security challenges, particularly the EU and the United States. US–Finnish bilateral and regional defence relations are strengthening as both Russia and the United States express growing interest in the Arctic. The policy analysis theorizes how NATO integration would impact Finnish military requirements, should conflict arise. (38 p.)

FRANCE

GROUPE D'ÉTUDES GÉOPOLITIQUES

Forging an Economy for Tomorrow

by Olivier Blanchard et al.

The authors assess the necessity of reform in France and Europe as a whole to develop the economy of tomorrow. They consider climate change, demographic shifts and economic inequality as important variables. (13 p.)

INSTITUTE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND
TRADE

The Past, Present, and Future of European integration: a French perspective

by Baudouin Ducoux et al.

This article aims to understand the European integration process in relationship to French national interests. It looks at the interplay of President Macron's EU project and the integration process, and offers anticipatory insights into the possible developments in French EU policy. (24 p.)

GERMANY

LEIBNIZ INSTITUTE FOR FINANCIAL
RESEARCH SAFE

Prioritäten für die Bundestagswahl 2021 im Finanzbereich

Against the backdrop of climate change and digitalization, researchers at SAFE emphasize that green finance and financial stability must be on the agenda for the next German government after the 2021 federal elections. They argue that the new government should further prioritise the completion of a European banking union and the creation of a capital markets union, particularly to create sustainable standards for retirement provision. (DE – 8 p.)

SECTION 4 - EU MEMBER STATES

UTRIKESPOLITISKA INSTITUTET (SWEDISH INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS)

A geopolitical awakening? The future of German statecraft

by Roderick Parkes [@RoderickParkes](#)

This brief gives an overview of how German geopolitics are discussed among officials, politicians and international think tanks in connection to the German federal election 2021. (10 p.)

LITHUANIA

WIENER INSTITUT FÜR INTERNATIONALE WIRTSCHAFTSVERGLEICHE (WIIW)

To Grow or Not to Grow: Belarus and Lithuania

by Thorvaldur Gylfason et al.

This study compares the economic growth performance of Belarus and Lithuania since the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991. This country pair was chosen due to their interwoven histories and the fact that Belarus remains autocratic and strongly tied to Russia, while Lithuania has reinvented itself as a democratic market economy fully integrated into the EU. (40 p.)

SPAIN

REAL INSTITUTO ELCANO (ELCANO ROYAL INSTITUTE)

La nueva realidad de la política fiscal y sus implicaciones para España

by Federico Steinberg

Public debt has risen significantly during the pandemic. Paradoxically, public debt in advanced countries now seems more sustainable than after the previous crisis. Will this still be the case in the future? (ES - 7 p.)

BARCELONA CENTRE FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

The Next Generation EU: Opportunity and risk

by Josep M^a Lloveras Soler

Next Generation EU (NGEU) is the flagship EU crisis innovation response programme. According to this note, it offers investment and reform potential, but is not free from ambiguity in its recovery and transformation objectives. Failure could render further EU solidarity politically unpalatable and threaten the euro-zone's integrity. The Spanish plan illustrates the dilemmas of this risky experiment. More accent is placed on the regularity of financial execution of the NGEU funds than on efficiency and effectiveness, the benchmarks on which are left unspecified. (6 p.)

SWEDEN

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

Förhandsavgöranden av EU-domstolen 1995–2020: genomslag och betydelse i Sverige

by Ulf Bernitz

Since Sweden's accession to the EU, Swedish courts have applied EU law loyally. At the same time, they have been restrained in asking the Court of Justice how Union law should be interpreted. By more often requesting interpretative decisions, so-called preliminary rulings, Sweden could have a greater impact on European legal developments, writes the author. (SV – 118 p.)

CENTRE FOR STRATEGIC AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

Are Current Russian Expeditionary Capabilities Capable of a Coup de Main in Sweden?

by Suzanne Freeman

Changes to Swedish defence policy and spending indicate that the defence of Gotland is a major priority, but how capable is Russia of such an expeditionary operation? This paper

suggests four major findings which contribute to the conclusion that it would be militarily possible for Russia to take Gotland, but it would be logistically difficult. (8 p.)

THE NETHERLANDS

THE HAGUE CENTRE FOR STRATEGIC STUDIES

[Taming Techno-Nationalism: A Policy Agenda](#)

by Hugo van Manen et al.

This report outlines a policy agenda for countering techno-nationalism, building upon existing policies options outlined by the Dutch Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Ministry of Defence. (131 p.)



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT THINK TANK

[The human right to drinking water: impact of large-scale agriculture and industry](#)

by Naho Mirumachi et al.

The purpose of this in-depth analysis is to consider the impacts of large-scale agricultural activity and industry on the progressive realisation of the human right to drinking water. In particular, it considers how the European Union and the European Parliament can better support non-EU countries to expand access to this human right. The authors additionally consider the context of trade-offs emerging from the water-food-energy nexus where water use in one sector can have impacts on others. (62 p.)

EURO-MEDITERRANEAN STUDY COMMISSION

[Mediterranean Transport and Logistics in a Post-COVID-19 Era: Prospects and Opportunities](#)

by Antoine Apprioual, et al. (eds)

The COVID-19 has led to a major disruption of the transport system worldwide. In the Mediterranean region, it has acted as a catalyst for the trends that were already gaining a foothold in the region. The need to adapt to climate change, the sustainability paradigm, the reconfiguration of global supply chains, and the fourth industrial revolution, has become even more important for the transport and logistics sector as consequence of the pandemic. (286 p.)

CENTRE D'ÉTUDES ET DE RECHERCHES INTERNATIONALES

[Guide on incentives for responsible investment in agriculture and food systems](#)

by Marcela Villarreal et al.

The world is facing the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression, tied to the COVID-19 pandemic. This guide provides policymakers and government technical staff with guidance on whether and how investment incentives can be used to enhance investment that is aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals and the Committee on World Food Security Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems. (124 p.)