



General Secretariat of the Council
Central Library

THINK TANK REVIEW

Issue 4
May 2013

Dear Readers,

Welcome to issue 4 of the **Think Tank Review** compiled* by the Council Library.

The main trends emerging from our selection this month are a continued quest for policy options for growth and jobs (especially for the young), accompanied by a persistent concern with (eurozone) governance and legitimacy issues.

Our special focus in this issue is on China, with a variety of papers from the US, the UK, Sweden, Germany, Italy, and China itself. Topics range from China's role in the emerging global order, to its military culture, relations with Japan, Iran, Korea and - indeed - its Arctic ambitions.

Several think tanks released papers on defence and security, perhaps triggered by new data on the decline in military expenditure at global level - an average that hides many nuances. We will highlight more research on defence and security in the months ahead of the December European Council, where leaders will discuss this topic.

In the *Regards Croisés* section, we link to a paper by the Fondation Robert Schuman. Looking at the Cyprus crisis, the French organization explores both its significance for the Economic and Monetary Union and its repercussions on the island's economy and society.

In the External Relations section, the usual broad view spanning from the Mediterranean, through the Eastern Neighbourhood, to Korea, Japan, Brazil and more.

Some of the papers reported in this issue stem from two collaborative efforts by the think tank community: the "Think Global - Act European" joint papers by 16 think tanks reached the fourth issue, devoted this year to the EEAS. Previous papers in this series (available through the Library) included recommendations to the trio presidencies on a variety of policy issues. On 24 April, 10 organisations joined in the Brussels Think Tank Dialogue, with a closing [speech](#) by the President of the European Council.

A word on method: the small research team at the Council library monitors a growing list of worldwide think tanks. We include in the Review substantial publications issued in the preceding month that strike us for their relevance to the current political debates in the Council or European Council, their originality or exhaustiveness. While we try to keep a balanced approach, our readers will understand that we cannot cover all think tanks in every issue, and we will occasionally overlook a relevant paper. We trust that readers will promptly alert us when this happens, and that the Review - partly subjective as all intellectual efforts are - will nevertheless be useful. As always, we value your feedback. You can reach us at central.library@consilium.europa.eu.

For our readers from outside the General Secretariat: the Central Library is located at JL 02 GH, Rue de la Loi 175, 1048 Brussels. It is open to Council officials, staff of other EU institutions and Permanent representations. Members of the public may access it for research purposes by appointment.

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Table of Contents
click on titles to read abstracts

SECTION 1 - EU institutions and internal policies

BRUEGEL	
Europe's Growth Problem (And What to Do About It)	4
FONDATION ROBERT SCHUMAN	
For a Credible Growth Strategy for the Eurozone: The Obligation to Produce Results	4
POLICY NETWORK&GLOBAL PROGRESS	
The Politics of Growth, Stability and Reform	4
THE POLISH INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS	
From the Periphery to the Core? Central Europe and the Economic Crisis	4
EUROPEAN POLICY CENTRE	
Youth Unemployment - Does the EU Care about its Future?	5
FUTURELAB EUROPE	
Europe's Lost Generation?	5
BRUSSELS THINK TANK DIALOGUE	
The State of the Internal Energy Market	5
FRIDE	
The EU's Global Climate and Energy Policies: Gathering Momentum?	5
THE SWEDISH INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS	
The European Union and the Climate Change-Energy Nexus	6
PETERSON INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL ECONOMICS	
Four Changes to Trade Rules to Facilitate Climate Change Action.....	6
ISTITUTO AFFARI INTERNAZIONALI	
The Evolution of EU Policy and Law in the Environmental Field: Achievements and Current Challenges.....	6
THE POLISH INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS	
How the European Union Is Shaping the Gas Market in Poland	6
THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL ON FOREIGN RELATIONS (ECFR)	
Europe's Strategic Cacophony	7
INSTITUT FRANÇAIS DES RELATIONS INTERNATIONALES (IFRI)	
The Primacy of Alliance: Deterrence and European Security	7
NOTRE EUROPE - JACQUES DELORS INSTITUTE	
Defence: The French Ambition for Europe	7
STOCKHOLM INTERNATIONAL PEACE RESEARCH INSTITUTE	
Trends in World Military Expenditure, 2012	7
NOTRE EUROPE - JACQUES DELORS INSTITUTE	
Think Global - Act European IV: Thinking Strategically about the EU's External Action	8
THE POLISH INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS	
Joint Venture-Joint Responsibility. EEAS Review 2013	8
CENTRE FOR EUROPEAN POLICY STUDIES (CEPS)	
Online Personal Data Processing and EU Data Protection Reform	8
NOTRE EUROPE - JACQUES DELORS INSTITUTE	
The Parliaments of the EU and the Governance of the EMU	8
The Role and Place of Parliaments in a Genuine Economic and Monetary Union.....	9
ISTITUTO AFFARI INTERNAZIONALI	
From EMU to DEMU: The Democratic Legitimacy of the EU and the European Parliament .	9
FONDATION ROBERT SCHUMAN	
Towards a Genuine European Executive Power: From Governance to Government	9
FONDATION ROBERT SCHUMAN	
Is the Fragility of Democracy in Certain Central and Eastern European Member States a Test for Europe?	9
REAL INSTITUTO ELCANO	
After Bottoming Out: A New European Policy for Spain.....	10

SECTION 2 - External relations

EUROMESCO	
The End of the (Southern) Neighbourhood	11
THE GERMAN MARSHALL FUND	
The Future of Mediterranean Europe: Between the Euro Crisis and Arab Revolution	11
FRIDE	
Levers for Change: the EU and Civil Society in the Eastern Neighbourhood	11
BRUEGEL	
EU-Korea Economic Exchange	11
THE POLISH INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS	
Towards New Political and Economic Agreements with Japan: Bringing New Dynamism into the Strategic Partnership between the EU and Japan	12
NOTRE EUROPE - JACQUES DELORS INSTITUTE	
EU-Mediterranean Relations in the Field of Agriculture. The Example of Morocco and Turkey	12
INSTITUT EUROPÉEN DES RELATIONS INTERNATIONALES	
Iran-Israel and the Proliferating Countries. Rising Tensions and Their Regional and Global Impact	12
FRIDE	
Brazil and the EU: Partnering on Security and Human Rights?	12

SPECIAL FOCUS: CHINA

DEUTSCHE GESELLSCHAFT FÜR AUSWÄRTIGE POLITIK	
A Stabilizing Neighbor? The Impact of China's Engagement in Central Asia on Regional Security	13
CHATHAM HOUSE	
China's New Leadership: Approaches to International Affairs	13
CARNEGIE ENDOWMENT FOR INTERNATIONAL PEACE	
Crux of Asia: China, India, and the Emerging Global Order	13
INTERNATIONAL CRISIS GROUP	
Dangerous Waters: China-Japan Relations on the Rocks	13
CARNEGIE TSINGHUA - CARNEGIE ENDOWMENT FOR INTERNATIONAL PEACE	
Balancing Chinese Interest on North Korea and Iran	14
INSTITUTE FOR SECURITY&DEVELOPMENT POLICY (ISDP)	
A Changing Calculus Towards North Korea in Beijing?	14
Characteristics of Chinese Military Culture: A Historical Perspective	14
ISTITUTO PER GLI STUDI DI POLITICA INTERNAZIONALE	
Russian-Chinese Relations	14
STOCKHOLM INTERNATIONAL PEACE RESEARCH INSTITUTE	
China's Arctic Aspirations	15
EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT LIBRARY	
China's Presence in African Ports: Investment Across the Ocean	15
China's Role in Development in Africa - Challenging the EU Approach	15

REGARDS CROISÉS

FONDATION ROBERT SCHUMAN	
The Eurozone as Revealed in Cyprus	16

SECTION 1 - EU institutions and internal policies

How could the EU recover from the crisis and what should be its long-term growth strategy? Some think tanks try to give answers ...

BRUEGEL

Europe's Growth Problem (And What to Do About It)

by Zsolt Darvas, Jean Pisani-Ferry and Guntram B. Wolff

12 April 2013

[link to the article](#)

The European Union's weak long-term growth potential and unsatisfactory recovery from the crisis represent a major policy challenge. The paper identifies three main areas that need to be tackled in order to prevail. "Over and above the structural reform agenda, which is vitally important, bold policy action is needed", the authors say. The priority is to get bank credit going. Secondly, a rebalancing of the allocation of factors to the most productive firms is vital. And third, the speed of fiscal adjustment needs to be appropriate.

FONDATION ROBERT SCHUMAN

For a Credible Growth Strategy for the Eurozone: The Obligation to Produce Results

by Mathilde Lemoine

22 April 2013

[link to the article](#)

Any growth strategy for the eurozone is doomed to failure if there is no improvement in the functioning of the Economic and Monetary Union (EMU), argues the paper. The author supports the theory according to which the establishment of a monetary zone demands the mobility of the production factors in order for it to function satisfactorily. Then governments and the European authorities will be able to concentrate on freeing the traditional engines of growth, i.e. investment, innovation and training to improve the growth trend, argues the paper.

POLICY NETWORK&GLOBAL PROGRESS

The Politics of Growth, Stability and Reform

by various authors

9 April 2013

[link to the article](#)

With rising protests and anger against widespread job losses and declining living standards, the public is desperately looking for a change of course. Yet a principled rejection of austerity is not enough. Looking for the wise way out of the crisis Policy Network and Global Progress issue a publication of memos focused on 3 pillars of progressive governance that need sustained attention, critical thinking and new ideas - the politics of growth, production and reform; lifting living standards and providing good jobs; equipping young people for the new economy and tackling youth unemployment.

THE POLISH INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

From the Periphery to the Core? Central Europe and the Economic Crisis

by Anita Sobják

8 April 2013

[link to the article](#)

Central Europe has a chance to improve its relative economic position in the EU in the mid to long run, as the region has weathered the crisis better than the EU average, argues the paper. The author also adds that the ongoing debt crisis in the Mediterranean countries of the eurozone, together with the ever tighter fiscal and economic policy rules imposed by the EU, will continue to limit the financing capabilities of the region.

The record-high youth unemployment is an issue which receives special attention

EUROPEAN POLICY CENTRE

Youth Unemployment - Does the EU Care about its Future?

by Claire Dhéret

26 April 2013

[link to the article](#)

Youth unemployment levels in Europe are hitting new highs: more than 5.7 million (23.6%) young people in the EU were without a job in January 2013. The author argues that the pan-European nature of the challenge calls for urgent action at EU level. And suggests that Europe should activate three strategic plans which include: making optimal use of already-existing instruments; developing a comprehensive strategy including aspects of employability and social protection, and being more ambitious with regard to future European investment in young people.

FUTURELAB EUROPE

Europe's Lost Generation?

29 April 2013

[link to the article](#)

The latest report by FutureLab Europe reveal how young people in 24 EU countries are coping with current economic and social crisis. It provides country reports to all of them as one of the conclusions is that the experience of young people across Europe and within individual countries is very specific. Yet there is almost an anonymous agreement between the participants in the survey that the most significant issue now is that fact that they are being trapped in consecutive unpaid or underpaid internships and temporary jobs, as well as the phenomenon of young people being forced back to education because of a lack of job opportunities.

The EU climate and energy policies, and the tension between them, is being scrutinised by think tanks

BRUSSELS THINK TANK DIALOGUE

The State of the Internal Energy Market

April 2013

[link to the article](#)

This discussion paper served as a basis for the Energy Chapter of this year's Annual Brussels Think Tank Forum. It reviews the progress achieved in market liberalisation and flags the many challenges remaining in view of the deadline for completing the internal market by 2014. It has sections on the electricity- and the gas market and the EU Emission Trade Scheme.

FRIDE

The EU's Global Climate and Energy Policies: Gathering Momentum?

by Richard Youngs

18 April 2013

[link to the article](#)

The European Union's global energy and climate policies have gathered impressive momentum in the last three years. The challenge for the EU now is to reconcile tensions between its internal and external policies, as well as between traditional energy security and climate change aims, argues the paper. The return of very traditional approaches to both domestic economic policy and international energy security threatens to subvert EU global climate leadership, concludes the author.

THE SWEDISH INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
The European Union and the Climate Change-Energy Nexus
by Gunilla Reischl
April 2013
[link to the article](#)

There is an apparent tension between securing energy supply and combating climate change, which is reflected both at the global level and at the EU level. Development of a new energy infrastructure and improvements of energy efficiency have huge potential, if not in overcoming the problems, at least in helping the transition towards a more sustainable path, argues the paper. However, in order to accomplish this there is a need of political will to make the necessary investments, underlines the author.

PETERSON INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL ECONOMICS
Four Changes to Trade Rules to Facilitate Climate Change Action
by Aaditya Mattoo and Arvind Subramanian
April 2013
[link to the article](#)

Generating technological progress requires deploying the full range of policy instruments, including those related to trade policy, argues the paper. The authors propose changes to trade rules that would promote climate change goals, considering four areas: subsidization of green goods and technologies; border-tax adjustments (BTAs) related to carbon content; restrictions on the export of fossil fuels, especially natural gas; and intellectual property protection of new technologies and products related to climate change.

ISTITUTO AFFARI INTERNAZIONALI
The Evolution of EU Policy and Law in the Environmental Field: Achievements and Current Challenges
by Emanuela Orlando
24 April 2013
[link to the article](#)

The paper presents the evolution of EU policy and legislation in the field of environmental protection from the early seventies until nowadays. The implementation and effectiveness of environmental law still remain key concerns, argues the paper. The author also concludes that the often difficult relationship between climate and energy policy and other environmental concerns points to one of the most pressing challenges that the EU is facing at present: reconciling the pursuit of competitive economic growth with the objectives of sustainability and environmental protection.

THE POLISH INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
How the European Union Is Shaping the Gas Market in Poland
by Aleksandra Gawlikowska-Fyk
9 April 2013
[link to the article](#)

Gas markets in the European Union are becoming more liberalised and integrated. But this model is rather typical only for North and Western Europe, while Poland significantly lags behind, argues the paper. Polish authorities only recently made some strategic decisions, but they constitute merely boundaries for a well functioning and liquid gas market in Poland integrated with the EU system. While the pace and scope of the necessary changes must be the subject of a reliable, expert debate, too much hesitation is already creating unnecessary uncertainty and Poland risks missing the opportunity to become an important player in Central and Eastern Europe, says the author.

Building up momentum towards the discussion foreseen at the European Council in December, some think tanks wonder about the future of defence and security in the EU. The institutional role of the EEAS is examined too

THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL ON FOREIGN RELATIONS (ECFR)

Europe's Strategic Cacophony

by Nick Witney and Olivier de France

25 April 2013

[link to the article](#)

The authors analyse the individual security strategies of all 27 EU member states and find that many are out of date and inadequate. They argue that European leaders need to start asking each other hard questions about security, sharing ideas and starting a real strategic conversation in the lead up to a European Council meeting this December. The paper underlines that failing to take European security seriously costs us money and credibility and opens up serious risks.

INSTITUT FRANÇAIS DES RELATIONS INTERNATIONALES (IFRI)

The Primacy of Alliance: Deterrence and European Security

by Lawrence Freedman

April 2013

[link to the article](#)

Since the end of the Cold War, the international security environment has been transformed and nuclear weapons have been marginalized in the West. However, the NATO security policies remain almost unchanged: deterrence is still considered as a principle guiding the Atlantic Alliance, even though the actual policy statements lack target, direction and urgency. Questioning the credibility of deterrence in Europe and its future, the paper recalls that it lies first and foremost with solidarity and political cohesion among members of the Alliance, and only secondly with the threat of nuclear retaliation.

NOTRE EUROPE - JACQUES DELORS INSTITUTE

Defence: The French Ambition for Europe

by Nicole Gnesotto and Sophie-Caroline De Margerie

29 April 2013

[link to the article](#)

As the Commission on the French White Paper on Defence and National Security hands in its report to the president of the French Republic, the authors of this paper analyse the future of national defence and the French ambition for Europe. France's relative reduction of its budgetary effort might indeed be perceived by our partners as a lowering of the country's ambitions, even though France is still one of the European countries that invest most in defence and security. But nothing could be further from the truth, argue the authors.

STOCKHOLM INTERNATIONAL PEACE RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Trends in World Military Expenditure, 2012

by Sam Perlo-Freeman, Elisabeth Sköns, Carina Solmirano and Helen Wilandh

April 2013

[link to the article](#)

Global military expenditure fell in 2012 to \$1,753 billion, equivalent to 2.5% of global gross domestic product (GDP). Although the fall was only 0.5% in real terms, this was the first decrease since 1998. The small overall reduction is the result of falls in the West - spending fell in North America, in most of Western and Central Europe and in Australia - that were only partly offset by increases in much of the developing world and in Eastern Europe, especially Russia. This may indicate the beginning of a shift in the balance of world military spending away from the West, although it still accounts for a clear majority of global military spending, argues the paper which analyses the global, regional and national trends in military expenditure, revealed by the new data.

NOTRE EUROPE - JACQUES DELORS INSTITUTE

Think Global - Act European IV: Thinking Strategically about the EU's External Action

by Elvire Fabry and Chiara Rosselli

30 April 2013

[link to the article](#)

In order to anticipate the negative spill over of the economic and financial crisis on the EU's international influence and avoid the progressive marginalisation of Europeans, the EU must equip itself with a more integrated external action strategy, argues the paper. The project Think Global – Act European (TGAE), launched in 2008, mobilises 16 European think tanks today. And in its latest report it gives proposals for concrete action to European institutions and national diplomacies. concerning the instruments of the EU's external action service. The report will be presented on the 15th May 2013 in Brussels.

THE POLISH INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Joint Venture-Joint Responsibility. EEAS Review 2013

by Ryszarda Formuszewicz and Dorota Liszczyk

15 April 2013

[link to the article](#)

The March informal meeting of EU foreign ministers (Gymnich) marks the starting point of a channelled discussion on EEAS review, creating the prospect for improvements in the institutional dimension of EU external activity, argues the paper. The exercise presents an opportunity to develop a stronger sense of ownership in EU foreign policy. However, the review as such needs to be adequately managed and structured, underline the authors.

The discussions during the CEPS Digital Forum have resulted in recommendations addressing the EU data processing reform

CENTRE FOR EUROPEAN POLICY STUDIES (CEPS)

Online Personal Data Processing and EU Data Protection Reform

by Kristina Irion and Giacomo Luchetta

8 April 2013

[link to the article](#)

The report issues policy recommendations that would address short- and medium-term policy goals that advocate a meta-governance approach to privacy and data protection. It is based on the discussions among the members of the CEPS Digital Forum and independent research carried out by the rapporteurs.

Issues of parliamentary control - but also of executive effectiveness - in Eurozone governance continue to trigger think tank reflections

NOTRE EUROPE - JACQUES DELORS INSTITUTE

The Parliaments of the EU and the Governance of the EMU

by Yves Bertoncini

11 April 2013

[link to the article](#)

The debate around the roles of the national and European parliaments in the eurozone governance has been substantially relaunched and reshaped in the last few years, argues the paper. It is part of a more global discussion on the democratic dimension of the Economic and Monetary Union, and even more widely, on the European "political union". In this context, the author of the paper develops analysis and recommendations on the functional division of tasks between the European and national parliaments, clarifies the impact of the EMU governance reforms on national sovereignty and democracies and etc.

The Role and Place of Parliaments in a Genuine Economic and Monetary Union

by Christian Deubner and Valentin Kreilinger

17 April 2013

[link to the article](#)

The authors summarise the discussions during a seminar on the role of Parliaments in the coordination of budgetary and economic policies. They present the political and legal landscape on the topic and analyse the effects of the "fences and borders within the EU" as well as the effects and the possibilities of creating added value by means of multi-parliamentary cooperation.

ISTITUTO AFFARI INTERNAZIONALI

From EMU to DEMU: The Democratic Legitimacy of the EU and the European Parliament

by Andreas Maurer

4 April 2013

[link to the article](#)

Given the EU's legal and institutional structure, the European Parliament (EP) is in a weak position to fully participate in the governance of the Economic and Monetary Union (EMU). The eurozone crisis did not alter this situation. Instead, the European Council and the eurogroup gained many new, discretionary powers without being bound by any kind of uniform, coordinated or reliable control mechanism of the European Parliament. Overall, the parliamentary dimension of the EU's democracy deficit has been intensified, argues the paper and explores ways to bring the EP back into the reformed EMU governance framework.

FONDATION ROBERT SCHUMAN

Towards a Genuine European Executive Power: From Governance to Government

by Thierry Chopin

16 April 2013

[link to the article](#)

The crisis has brought the deficit of European political and executive leadership to light, likewise the need to reform European "governance" so that "true European economic government" can be built, argues the paper. In this context the author analyses the imbalances that typify European governance as it stands and to define the conditions that might foster the emergence of a capacity for action and decision making on a European level that is both effective and legitimate. In short – the true European executive power which is viewed as the keystone to the transition from governance over to government.

Developments and challenges in "new" and "old" Member States

FONDATION ROBERT SCHUMAN

Is the Fragility of Democracy in Certain Central and Eastern European Member States a Test for Europe?

by Irina Boulin-Ghica

2 April 2013

[link to the article](#)

In three of the new EU Member States - Hungary, Romania and Bulgaria - the rule of law, as generally accepted, is being challenged in terms of its basic requirements: an independent judicial system, institutional forces of opposition, pluralist media, combat against corruption and organised crime, no discrimination towards ethnic minorities. This causes a wave of public concern as well as amongst European institutions. A series of governance tools are at the disposal of the EU and it must use them with both discernment and firmness, in order to avoid any further rise in euro scepticism, argues the paper. And underlines that the question is all the more relevant with the approach of the May 2014 European elections.

REAL INSTITUTO ELCANO

After Bottoming Out: A New European Policy for Spain

by Ignacio Molina

29 April 2013

[link to the article](#)

After years of slow de-Europeanisation Spain must not only put the integration process back at the heart of its national project, but it must also dare to co-lead it, argues the paper. The good news is that if the country were to venture to dedicate more intelligence and political will to the integration process, it has various comparative advantages. But the bad news is that for now, Spain shows no clear signs of intending to abandon its low profile and design a proactive strategy for the coming years, underlined the author of the paper.

SECTION 2 - External relations

EUROMESCO

The End of the (Southern) Neighbourhood

by Kristina Kausch

April 2013

[link to the article](#)

Brussels' policies towards the Southern Mediterranean region are based on the implicit assumption that a continued dominant European position (in relations with partner countries from there) can be taken for granted, argues the paper. The paper aims to challenge this view and offers a set of policy recommendations for reform in EU policies.

THE GERMAN MARSHALL FUND

The Future of Mediterranean Europe: Between the Euro Crisis and Arab Revolution

by Emiliano Alessandri

16 April 2013

[link to the article](#)

The elements of a Southern European transition are apparent, largely revolving around the cardinal concept of "openness". What is needed is more open political systems, more open economies and job markets, more open attitudes toward other societies within and outside of Europe so as to bridge existing divides and addressing issues such as declining demographics, argues the paper. The summary is based on discussions held at the seventh Mediterranean Strategy Group meeting, "The Future of Mediterranean Europe: Between the Euro Crisis and Arab Revolution," on February 25-27, 2013.

FRIDE

Levers for Change: the EU and Civil Society in the Eastern Neighbourhood

by Aliaksandr Charniakovich

11 April 2013

[link to the article](#)

The emergence of a strong civil society is a key condition to bring about change in countries from the Eastern Partnership (EaP) region – which includes Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine, argues the paper. It notes that the civil society actors call upon the EU to keep democracy promotion and human rights at the core of its approach to the region.

BRUEGEL

EU-Korea Economic Exchange

by various authors

23 April 2013

[link to the article](#)

Even though the roots of the global financial crisis lay in risky financial structures in the US and weaknesses in financial regulation, the crisis became global. Most countries, including European Union countries and Korea, have felt its impact. However, there was a striking difference between the ways in which the EU and Korea were affected. Korea recovered very quickly and output in 2013 is expected to exceed by more than 18 percent the 2007 output level. This paper, consisting of over two dozen contributions by various authors, tries to shed some light on the matter.

THE POLISH INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Towards New Political and Economic Agreements with Japan: Bringing New Dynamism into the Strategic Partnership between the EU and Japan

by Radosław Tyszkiewicz

10 April 2013

[link to the article](#)

The forthcoming EU–Japan summit heralds a new era in the relations between these two major economic powers. Both players are focused on repairing their economies and putting growth back on track. To make this happen they are ready to negotiate legally binding agreements, which would help expand their cooperation. The negotiators will have to resolve a number of contentious issues, but the agreed outcome may result in considerable benefits for both the EU and Japan.

NOTRE EUROPE - JACQUES DELORS INSTITUTE

EU-Mediterranean Relations in the Field of Agriculture. The Example of Morocco and Turkey

by Raúl Compés López, José-María García-Alvarez-Coque and Tomás García Azcárate

18 April 2013

[link to the article](#)

EU and Middle East and North African countries (MENA) countries share common interests but have some issues that require pro-active strategies for cooperation in order to avoid negative results, argues the paper. The political integration process for candidate countries (the case of Turkey) demands institutional adaptation to EU's rules such as the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), underline the authors. Trade liberalisation can be positive in net terms but it also creates losers. Accompanying measures are needed to ensure everybody's well-being in the medium and long term, adds the paper.

INSTITUT EUROPÉEN DES RELATIONS INTERNATIONALES

Iran-Israel and the Proliferating Countries. Rising Tensions and Their Regional and Global Impact

by Daniel Schwammenthal

3 April 2013

[link to the article](#)

The fact that Iran is spending a lot of money and scarce resources to upgrade its missiles to bring Western cities within its range should be a matter of grave concern for European policy makers, argues the paper. Europe must also not overlook Tehran's role as the world's chief sponsor of terrorism. Strategic thinking requires that Europe's leaders consider the long-term costs of allowing Iran to go nuclear, underlines the author.

FRIDE

Brazil and the EU: Partnering on Security and Human Rights?

by Susanne Gratius and Giovanni Grevi

9 April 2013

[link to the article](#)

Despite the different experiences and perceptions of Brazil and the EU, there is scope for them to enhance dialogue on security and human rights, argues the paper. It underlines that as both actors redefine their position in a fluid international system, cooperation on specific issues is the best way to build confidence in the field and in multilateral settings. And both will increasingly need reliable partners to advance their values and interests on the global stage.

SPECIAL FOCUS: CHINA

DEUTSCHE GESELLSCHAFT FÜR AUSWÄRTIGE POLITIK

A Stabilizing Neighbor? The Impact of China's Engagement in Central Asia on Regional Security

by Luba von Hauff

12 April 2013

[link to the article](#)

China's influence in post-Soviet Central Asia has steadily grown for 20 years, according to this paper. Beijing, striving to suppress Uighur separatist movements in and beyond its own Xinjiang province as well as to tap into Central Asian development projects, has backed the neighbouring region's largely unpopular authoritarian regimes, the author states. "As a result, the populations' receptiveness to Islamic forms of social and political organization has been growing, and with it, the region's potential for insecurity in the long run."

CHATHAM HOUSE

China's New Leadership: Approaches to International Affairs

by Tim Summers

April 2013

[link to the article](#)

The paper presents a couple of observations on Chinese policies after the major leadership transition. Some of the key conclusions are: there is a continuity in the context of existing policy approaches to China's "core interests", overseas "neo-interventionism" to protect Chinese interests and individuals; the influence of the post-2008 financial and economic crisis on Chinese thinking about international affairs has been significant; relations with Japan and North Korea's continued nuclear programme pose the most immediate challenges.

CARNEGIE ENDOWMENT FOR INTERNATIONAL PEACE

Crux of Asia: China, India, and the Emerging Global Order

by Ashley J. Tellis and Sean Mirski

10 January 2013

[link to the article](#)

The rise of China and India as major world powers promises to test the established global order in the coming decades, argues the paper. As the two powers grow, they are bound to change the current international system - with profound implications for themselves, the United States, and the world, says the author. The paper offers a close examination of Chinese and Indian perspectives on the fundamentals of the emerging international order reveals that Sino-Indian differences on many issues of both bilateral and global significance are stark.

INTERNATIONAL CRISIS GROUP

Dangerous Waters: China-Japan Relations on the Rocks

8 April 2013

[link to the article](#)

Despite the fact that both China and Japan stated desire to avoid armed conflict, an increased number of vessels now patrol in close proximity in disputed waters, heightening the risk of an accidental clash. China-Japan dynamic remains one incident away from moving from dangerous escalation to full-blown crisis, argues the paper. Yet the shared desire to avoid a military conflict and complementary economic ties offer substantive incentive and common ground for the world's second and third largest economies to engage in meaningful contact with each other, concludes the paper. ICG also publishes its major reports on paper. A copy is available in the Central Library.

Balancing Chinese Interest on North Korea and Iran

by Lora Saalman

1 April 2013

[link to the article](#)

China recently joined the international community in its response to North Korea's satellite launch and third nuclear test, and it also participated in talks on Iran's nuclear program. Chinese behaviour seems more related in engaging the US than an effort to deal with non-proliferation on American terms, argues the paper.

SPOTLIGHT ON...

[The Carnegie-Tsinghua Center for Global Policy](#) is a joint U.S.-China research center, based at Tsinghua University in Beijing. It was established in 2010 by the Carnegie Endowment, which also has offices in Washington, Moscow, Beirut and Brussels. The think tank provides analysis and researches on economic, security, and political issues in the Asia-Pacific region. It also works with Carnegie's other global centers to publish various papers or to host conferences, roundtables, seminars and closed-door briefings.

INSTITUTE FOR SECURITY&DEVELOPMENT POLICY (ISDP)

A Changing Calculus Towards North Korea in Beijing?

by David Mulrooney

25 April 2013

[link to the article](#)

North Korea's advances in nuclear weapons and missile technology, in combination with its recent escalation of bellicose rhetoric against the US and its allies, have triggered a change in the attitude towards the country even in the traditionally friendly China, argues the paper. The author underlines that North Korea goes from being an intermittently problematic but generally stable entity during the Kim Jong Il years to a source of regional instability under Kim Jong Un.

Characteristics of Chinese Military Culture: A Historical Perspective

by Zhang Heng

8 April 2013

[link to the article](#)

Today, the armed forces of the major powers have the goal of defending their national interests and contributing to world peace. For geographical and historical reasons, Chinese military culture developed its own unique orientation. Studying Chinese military culture is a path toward a better understanding of the characteristics of the Chinese armed forces, argues the paper and offers a historical review of it.

ISTITUTO PER GLI STUDI DI POLITICA INTERNAZIONALE

Russian-Chinese Relations

by Alexander Lukin

29 April 2013

[link to the article](#)

Today, Russian-Chinese relations are at the peak of their development, argues the paper. A close, constructive and cooperative relationship that does not go to the extremes of mutual hostility on the one hand, or forming a military alliance on the other hand, is fully in accordance with the interests of both Russia and China, underlines the author.

STOCKHOLM INTERNATIONAL PEACE RESEARCH INSTITUTE

China's Arctic Aspirations

by Linda Jakobson and Jingchao Peng

November 2012

[link to the article](#)

China's Arctic policies are still in a nascent stage of formulation. And although the country recognizes that it is an "Arctic outsider" - without sovereign rights in the Arctic - it also sees numerous economic opportunities opening up in there, argues the paper. That's why it consequently seeks to influence discussions and decisions on how the Arctic should be governed.

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT LIBRARY

China's Presence in African Ports: Investment Across the Ocean

[Link to the article](#)

China's Role in Development in Africa - Challenging the EU Approach

[Link to the article](#)

Although it is not exactly a think tank, we take the opportunity to include in our China focus these two very recent short briefings by our distinguished colleagues in the European Parliament's library. They give a very succinct overview of specific policy issues and link to other relevant readings.

REGARDS CROISÉS

FONDATION ROBERT SCHUMAN

The Eurozone as Revealed in Cyprus

by Sébastien Richard

9 April 2013

[link to the article](#)

The unusual nature of the bailout plan for Cyprus, which for the first time provides for a contribution from savers towards restructuring of the banking system, has given it an impact completely unrelated to the economic weight of the country at European Union level. With regard to Economic and Monetary Union, the Cypriot crisis has just demonstrated that its functioning is still very fragile, argues the paper. Considered to be a minor crisis, it has again highlighted the limits of European governance, at the risk of adding further uncertainty to the current crisis.