



General Secretariat of the Council
Central Library

THINK TANK REVIEW

Issue 5
June 2013

Dear Readers,

Welcome to issue 5 of the **Think Tank Review** (TTR) compiled* by the Central Library at the General Secretariat of the Council.

In May, several organizations reported on a decrease in public opinion support and trust in the EU. Reading the recent available reports side-by-side will highlight a diversity of sources, sampling methods, poll questions that - although not detracting from the main trend - certainly makes a nuanced reading advisable. Against this background, we also link to publications looking at national politics in France, Italy, Germany.

The June European Council, with its focus on economic governance through the European Semester, predictably triggers a lot of think tank activity. Some organizations look at systemic issues, power relations, direction and leadership in European integration, the role of the EU in new world scenarios. Other take a more specific approach and try to measure the impact of EU-IMF assistance, or go into details of banking union proposals and the notion of "contractual arrangements" between countries and EU institutions. We report proposals on policy and institutions to tackle the roots of the crisis from think tanks at the heart of the "Brussels bubble" but also from as far as Sweden and Lithuania. Away from the abstract realm of institutional architecture, some think tanks address specific issues of industrial policy.

In the section on external relations we gather analyses of the Syrian conflict - together with broader perspectives on the Middle East - and several papers on EU-Asia relations, from diverse sources in Greece, Sweden, Poland, the Czech Republic. This section also includes papers on EU relations with Russia, Turkey, the USA, Japan, Mexico and Brazil.

The special focus this month is the energy policy of the EU - from the global energy markets to energy efficiency. In the Regards Croisés section we present a Polish perspective on the EU future of the UK. As usual we also include a short "spotlight on" profile of one of the think tanks we monitor, this time it is the Czech EUROPEUM.

A word on method: despite the fact that we find an overwhelming majority of papers on EU affairs published in English, even by think tanks in non English-speaking countries, we are constantly trying to increase the range of languages represented in the review. This is precisely to reflect the plurality of perspectives that has been the Review's trademark since we ventured into this project a few months ago. Readers will find in this issues several papers in languages other than English or French, ranging from Dutch to Portuguese, from German to Polish. To make sure that the Review remains a manageable product for a vast majority of our readers, we will however include abstracts in English, either issued by the publisher or drafted by our team.

As always, we welcome feedback from our readers. You can reach us at central.library@consilium.europa.eu. This is also the mail to which you can send your request to be subscribed, or to receive past issues of the Review.

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.

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

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Some think tanks analyse European integration and the global European strategy and offer suggestions for their future development

DEUTSCHE GESELLSCHAFT FÜR AUSWÄRTIGE POLITIK

State Power within European Integration: On the Limits and Context of Germany's Power in the Union

by Josef Janning

May 2013

[link to the article](#)

The paper analyses the power of the Member States in the European Union and how it has changed in the process of integration, paying special attention to the position of Germany. The author explores five theses which illustrate the general functioning models in today's Union.

INSTITUT EUROPÉEN DES RELATIONS INTERNATIONALES

Les Défis de l'Union européenne. Cohésions Nationales, Fragmentation Politique et Risques Systémiques

by Jacques Lippert

3 May 2013

[link to the article](#) (in French)

Many important events that could deeply affect the European Union as we know it now, are going to take place in the next few years, this paper underlines. The author argues that European leaders will face three key elements: economic and political integration, new separatist national movements, and Transatlantic relations. He also comments that the main role of the EU is to unite citizens, rather than member states.

CLINGENDAEL

Een Wereld in Onzekerheid. Clingendael Strategische Monitor 2013

by Jan Rood and Rosa Dinnissen

29 May 2013

[link to the article](#) (in Dutch)

The Clingendael Strategic Monitor 2013 revolves around the impact of geopolitical developments in 2012. The previous issue of the report flagged a global shift of the international system towards a multi-polar system, defined by non-cooperation, and this development continued, say the authors. Power continued to slide from "the West to the rest". The 250+ page report tackles issues ranging from fragile regions to resource security and climate change, and tries to put these risks into context. Among other things, it heralds the decline of the UN as an actor on the world stage, increased tension between the US and China, and increased terrorism risks as a result of failing states.

ISTITUTO AFFARI INTERNAZIONALI / THE POLISH INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS / REAL INSTITUTO ELCANO / THE SWEDISH INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Towards a European Global Strategy. Securing European Influence in a Changing World

by various authors

28 May 2013

[link to the article](#)

On-going transformations at the global, regional and European levels create opportunities as well as challenges for the EU and demand strategic thinking, argues the paper, moving on to offer some guidance on this long-term endeavour. It identifies the preconditions for protecting Europe's peace, well-being and shared values and suggests strategic objectives. The paper is a result of The European Global Strategy project which was initiated by the foreign ministers of Italy, Poland, Spain and Sweden in July 2012. It was drafted by researchers from four leading think tanks - Istituto Affari Internazionali, The Polish Institute of International Affairs, Elcano Royal Institute and The Swedish Institute of International Affairs.

PETERSON INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL ECONOMICS

European Union Economic Relations: Crisis and Opportunity

by Douglas A. Rediker

23 May 2013

[link to the article](#)

While frustrating, inefficient, complicated, and often painful to watch, the evolution of the European Union is something that Americans should encourage, argues the author in a testimony before the United States Senate Committee on Foreign Relations. He also comments that EU's future success serves the United States' direct economic, financial, and strategic interests.

There are also analysis of national politics in Italy, France and Germany

NOTRE EUROPE - JACQUES DELORS INSTITUTE

Europe at the Polls. Lessons from the 2013 Italian Elections

by Renaud Dehousse

16 May 2013

[link to the article](#)

The 2013 Italian elections were in several respects a "Europeanised" contest, argues the paper. Political parties paid great attention to European issues and the outcome of the elections became an important moment for Europe. Negative aspects appear to have prevailed in both the discourse of parties and the choices of voters, comments the author. He also adds that regarding EU governance, the predominantly negative character of this Europeanization of the elections may become a source of instability in the future.

POLICY NETWORK

François Hollande After One Year. The Silent Reformer or Lost in Reform?

by Renaud Thillaye

1 May 2013

[link to the article](#)

After one year in power, the change promised by François Hollande for France has not happened, and he is no longer the flag-bearer for a different Europe, many European commentators and politicians say. The author of this paper takes a different view, and comments that the record of the PS-run government is far from being negligible after one year. He sets out a detailed account of the first year in office and argues that there is room for a more consistent and far-sighted reform of the French social model as a way to strengthen both competitiveness and social justice.

KIEL INSTITUTE FOR WORLD ECONOMY

Wie der Staat 2010 bis 2012 Konsolidiert Hat

by Jens Boysen-Hogrefe

May 2013

[link to the article](#) (in German)

The public sector in Germany experienced one of the strongest periods of consolidation in the history of the Federal Republic between 2010 and 2012. However, a significant share of this was an effect of the absence of a one-off (establishment of bad banks in 2010), this paper argues, adding that economic development played a relatively modest role. Although the consolidation was significant, its foundation is shaky in places, the author says. There where sharply rising wages and low interest rates were responsible, a correction and deterioration of the budget must be anticipated.

The so-called "European question" about the future of Britain in the EU is being analysed anew

STIFTUNG WISSENSCHAFT UND POLITIK / GERMAN INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL AND SECURITY AFFAIRS

Why an In-Out Referendum Won't Settle the European Question in British Politics

by Tim L. Oliver

14 May 2013

[link to the article](#)

Settling the "European question" and bringing stability to Britain's relations with the EU – whether in or outside the EU – will require comprehensive, longer-term changes, which a referendum can help trigger but in no way guarantee, argues the paper. The author underlines that a referendum is a necessary step forward for the British politics and EU relations, but it is only that - a single step, after which further steps will be needed.

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT INFORMATION OFFICE IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

Food for Thought

[link to a collection of articles](#)

This month we came across a collection of reports and articles on the EU-UK relations, prepared by the European Parliament Information Office in the UK. It covers the most debated EU subjects in the country, such as the referendum, migration, and justice and home affairs, and it might provide useful background information for researchers and people interested in following the current debate.

The decline in public support for the EU is covered by many think tanks.

THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL ON FOREIGN RELATIONS (ECFR)

The Continent-wide Rise of Euroscepticism

by various authors

16 May 2013

[link to the article](#)

Euroscepticism has spread across the continent like a virus, argues the paper. It is striking that everyone in the EU has been losing faith in the European project: both creditors and debtors, eurozone countries, would- be members and "opt-outs", underlines the group of ECFR authors who analyse the situation in 13 EU member states.

FONDATION ROBERT SCHUMAN

The Europeans' Attitudes about Europe: A Downturn Linked Only to the Crisis?

by Julien Zalc

6 May 2013

[link to the article](#)

Although negative opinions of Europe are rising, it is not exclusively because of the poor economic situation, argues the paper which offers a broad analysis of the Eurobarometer data. It also notes that at the same time the EU is still deemed to be the most adequate player to act effectively against the crisis. That's why people expect the Union to act. It is vital for the EU to be seen to be at work - it must communicate, more and better, about its work to support European citizens, comments the author.

SWEDISH INSTITUTE FOR EUROPEAN POLICY STUDIES (SIEPS)

Further Drop in Public Support for the EU

by Sören Holmberg

May 2013

[link to the article](#) (in Swedish, with appendix in English)

The economic crisis continues to affect trust in the EU project. In Sweden, as in most other Member States, a drop in public support for the EU has been observed, says the paper, which presents and analyses the data from a 2012 local survey. Only 42% of respondents declare that they are in favour of Sweden's EU membership and 76% are against the introduction of the euro in Sweden, show some of the key results.

POLICY NETWORK

Democratic Self-Government in Europe. Domestic Solutions to the EU Legitimacy Crisis

by Damian Chalmers

15 May 2013

[link to the article](#)

The paper adds a new element to the subsidiarity principle - the EU should only govern when it has democratic authority within a member state. National parliaments would play a key role in this new scenario. The author considers the options of exiting the EU or pursuing selective engagement – two proposals increasingly debated in the UK context. He concludes that much EU law will necessarily still be applied regardless of whether a state is within or outside the EU. Paradoxically, the constraints of EU law are such that a state may be less restricted by EU law when it is inside the EU than when it is outside the Union, argues the paper.

The European crisis, the banking union and economic governance are once again in focus for many think tanks, both in Brussels and elsewhere.

CENTRE FOR EUROPEAN REFORM (CER)

Why Has the Eurozone's Recovery Been Weaker Than the US's?

by Philip Whyte

May 2013

[link to the article](#)

The reason the eurozone has experienced a weaker recovery is that it has made more glaring mistakes, argues the paper. It analyses the policies in the eurozone and the US which started to diverge in 2010. The US chose to support growth and employment, while the eurozone opted to focus on adjustment (by consolidating public finances and promoting external "competitiveness") which led to different results, argues the paper.

THE GERMAN MARSHALL FUND OF THE UNITED STATES

Fiscal Union, Banking Union: Two Opposite Paths for Europe

by Bruno Maçães

31 May 2013

[link to the article](#)

The current crisis has shown the impracticability of an economic and monetary union in Europe without the essential institutions of a banking or financial union, argues the paper, whose author, Bruno Macaes, spent the previous two years as a senior political advisor to Portugal's prime minister, Pedro Passos Coelho. As the recent cases of Spain and Cyprus already indicate, a banking union will draw on the widespread political reluctance to support euro area bailouts for banks. Electorates in Europe will find it even more difficult to bail out a foreign bank, so we may well expect that a common resolution regime will rest on the "bailing in" of bank creditors, comments the author.

THE INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AND EUROPEAN AFFAIRS

Reforming European Economic Governance: The European Semester and other Recent Developments

by Michael G Tutty

15 May 2013

[link to the article](#)

The paper examines the recent major economic reforms in the European Union. It explains them, as well as the new processes they have created. These reforms are far reaching and have major implications for economic governance in Ireland and across the EU, underlines the author, who comments that despite this, little information on the new architecture is available.

BRUEGEL

EU-IMF Assistance to Euro-area Countries: An Early Assessment

by Jean Pisani-Ferry, André Sapir and Guntram Wolff

16 May 2013

[link to the article](#)

The paper provides an evaluation of the assistance programmes implemented by the Troika in Ireland, Portugal and Greece. It assesses their impact, quoting results and making comparisons and recommendations. The paper broadly considers Ireland a successful story, Portugal a potential success with continuing challenges, and Greece a failure, although a more nuanced view follows. Among recommendations there is a suggestion of a new EU institution, dubbed the European Monetary Fund (EMF), which like the IMF would be equipped with effective decision-making rules rather than being a technical subsidiary to the Eurogroup, as is presently the case with the ESM.

LITHUANIAN FREE MARKET INSTITUTE

Sound Money Introduction Plan. Restoring Sound Money in Europe

31 May 2013

[link to the article](#)

The paper describes the reasons for the eurozone crisis and describes various scenarios for countries which decide to exit the monetary union. It defines the specific action steps for the exit and answers practical questions. And finally it also addresses the implications for the rest of the eurozone (not the exiting countries) and the entire combined membership.

ESADEgeo

Why Western Nations Need an Active Industrial Policy: An Analysis of Deindustrialization and External Imbalances

by Alejandro Legarda and Jorge Blázquez

May 2013

[link to the article](#)

The current financial crisis has revealed indisputably that it is not possible to maintain a large current account deficit indefinitely. When access to international capital markets becomes difficult – in periods of turmoil such as the current crisis – a large current account deficit becomes a critical problem. The paper analyses the empirical relationship between external deficit and deindustrialization, finding that a weak manufacturing sector is linked to an anaemic trade balance which cannot be compensated for simply through the positive

evolution of the service sector. A number of policy recommendations regarding national industrial strategy are presented in line with the results.

THE GERMAN MARSHALL FUND OF THE UNITED STATES

Better to Suffer Inside the Eurozone

by Andrés Ortega

29 May 2013

[link to the article](#)

Although the EU as such is losing credibility, support for the euro remains strong in Southern Europe. A euro exit would have tremendous costs for these countries and their societies, particularly for the middle classes, argues the paper. People, governments and businesses across Southern Europe have concluded that even if it is cold inside the eurozone, it might be freezing outside, comments the author.

SWEDISH INSTITUTE FOR EUROPEAN POLICY STUDIES (SIEPS)

Crisis Management in the EU: Strengthening Economic Governance and Financial Stability

by Jonas Eriksson and Monika Hjeds Löfmark

May 2013

[link to the article](#) (in Swedish)

The economic crisis has revealed a number of weaknesses in the structures of the EU and the EMU, argues the paper. It also comments that the measures taken in order to thwart the crisis have been introduced at a pace that has sometimes made it difficult to keep up with developments. The authors describe the different measures taken since the sovereign debt crisis erupted. They analyse them in terms of the problems and stumbling blocks ahead and outline the direct and indirect effect on Sweden.

FONDATION ROBERT SCHUMAN

Terms of Crisis

by Sébastien Richard

14 May 2013

[link to the article](#)

The multifaceted nature of the economic and financial crisis that has been affecting the eurozone for the last three years and the multiple institutional responses by the European Union have led to a specific lexical field. Here is a glossary which tries to define in simple terms the concepts of economic theory, the key ideas from a budgetary point of view, the terms borrowed from the financial markets, the issues at stake for each State that is receiving financial aid and the measures implemented nationally or on a European level.

EGMONT ROYAL INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Money for Structural Reforms in the Eurozone: Making Sense of Contractual Arrangements

by Xavier Vanden Bosch

May 2013

[link to the article](#)

Both the Commission's proposal for a "Competitiveness and Convergence Instrument" and the "contractual arrangements" presented by President Van Rompuy share a common concept: associating EU money with national structural reforms under a binding

arrangement. Contractual arrangements can make sense, argues the author, provided a number of considerations are taken into account. The paper suggests seven points to consider in future discussions, including making the contracts voluntary, and making the programme countries eligible.

Don't Complicate It Even Further: Macroeconomic Conditionality as a Substitute for New Structural Reform Contracts

by Stijn Verhelst

May 2013

[link to the article](#)

The idea of introducing contracts between Member States and the EU on structural reforms risks rendering European economic governance even more complex and cumbersome, argues the author. It is therefore sensible to first try to integrate the structural reform contracts into one of the foreseen economic governance instruments. The paper argues that macroeconomic conditionality can serve this purpose and that with some minor reforms, it could even become a full-fledged substitute for structural reform contracts.

Migration policy and the European labour market are tightly connected and the European Policy Centre analyses the link.

EUROPEAN POLICY CENTRE (EPC)

Making Progress Towards the Completion of the Single European Labour Market

by Claire Dhéret, Alex Lazarowicz, Francesco Nicoli, Yves Pascouau and Fabian Zuleeg

28 May 2013

[link to the article](#)

Intra-EU mobility remains an under-utilised source of prosperity for EU citizens and for the EU economy as a whole, argues the paper. The authors propose an ambitious and comprehensive strategy towards labour mobility. This strategy aims to address obstacles to mobility, as well as create incentives to encourage people to move. It also aims to reinforce the role of public policies, both at the EU and national level, in order to address potential costs and optimise a better allocation of human resources.

Intra-EU Mobility: The "Second Building Block" of EU Labour Migration Policy

6 May 2013

by Yves Pascouau

[link to the article](#)

The opportunity for the EU labour migration policy to move ahead is based on the development of intra-EU mobility facilities for migrant workers already residing in the member states, argues the paper. The author analyses the existing intra-EU mobility rules and concludes that the right to freedom of movement is awarded to limited categories of third-country nationals and under different regimes which do not make mobility attractive. That's why he focuses on solutions to enhance intra-EU mobility for migrant workers that already reside in the EU.

EU Emissions Trading runs the risk of becoming irrelevant, according to this paper.

CENTRE FOR EUROPEAN REFORM (CER)

Saving Emissions Trading from Irrelevance

by Stephen Tindale

2 May 2013

[link to the article](#)

The main EU climate policy, the Emissions Trading System, now stipulates such a low carbon price that it has become essentially irrelevant, argues the paper. The European Commission should propose a Europe-wide carbon price floor of 30 euro per tonne, high enough to influence investment decisions and encourage energy efficiency and low-carbon energy supply, suggests the author. He adds that the Commission should also propose border tax adjustments, with the revenue returned to the country of origin.

Months before the European Council will discuss European military strategy, a number of think tanks analyse the challenges of the defence, security and maritime policies

INSTITUTE FOR SECURITY STUDIES

Enabling the Future. European Military Capabilities 2013-2025: Challenges and Avenues

by Antonio Missiroli, James Rogers and Andrea Gilli

6 May 2013

[link to the article](#)

Although Europeans remain relatively well-equipped to mobilise the tools needed to tackle potential threats, within the EU there is limited awareness or recognition of the emerging challenges, a basic disinterest in strategic matters, and relatively few voices calling for effective and sustainable armed forces, argues the paper. In addition, the European political and institutional landscape regarding defence and military matters is extremely segmented. The report seeks to place European military capabilities in a broader perspective and highlights potential avenues for exploration and development over the next decade.

EGMONT ROYAL INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

And What Will Europe Do? The European Council and Military Strategy

by Sven Biscop

May 2013

[link to the article](#)

Important decisions on Europe's military capabilities are expected from the December 2013 European Council. Based on its definition of interests, priority responsibilities, and capability objectives, the European Council could then decide on a number of taskings, to be achieved by December 2014. The point of setting priorities is that when the next contingency arises, decision-making should be faster, and mandating action by the able and willing Europeans under the political aegis of the EU should be easier.

CENTRE FOR EUROPEAN STUDIES (CES)

Breaking Down the Walls: Improving EU-NATO Relations

by Henna Hopia

May 2013

[link to the article](#)

With the US unwilling to play its tradition role of gendarme of the world, more than ever the EU must decide its role on defence matters and commit the necessary means, argues the paper. It notes that the present state of declining defence budgets and the ad-hoc relation with NATO can only perpetuate the decline of Europe, and the West, on the world stage.

THE FINNISH INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Maritime Security in a Multipolar World: Towards an EU Strategy for the Maritime Commons

by Timo Behr, Mika Aaltola and Erik Brattberg

15 May 2013

[link to the article](#)

The EU needs to develop a new proactive strategy for securing the maritime commons, based on ensuring the "security of access" and "sustainable management", argues the paper. In particular, it needs to focus on securing safe passage along EU's vital "sea lines of communication" (SLOCs), which are increasingly being threatened by great power rivalries, territorial conflicts, a reformulation of maritime law and the proliferation of maritime non-state actors, suggest the authors.

THE GERMAN MARSHALL FUND OF THE UNITED STATES

Framing the Transatlantic Security Discussion

by Aaron Friedberg

16 May 2013

[link to the article](#)

On both sides of the Atlantic, the military services face strong, and potentially long-lasting downward pressure on their budgets. It is possible that the next several years will see a further widening of the gap in capabilities between the U.S. military and the armed forces of even the strongest European powers, argues the paper. The current geopolitical challenges require, more than ever, a coordinated transatlantic answer, comments the author.

COLLÈGE D'EUROPE

**Le Cadre Européen de Protection des Données Personnelles en Matière Pénale
Dimensions Interne et Externe**

by Carole Pouliquen

May 2013

[link to the article](#) (in French)

The complex balance between protecting personal data and security pressures post 9/11. This delicate balance is viable in the field of police-judicial cooperation between EU states, but less so on the level of cooperation with the United States, particularly in the case of the Terrorist Finance Tracking Program, this paper argues.

Sanctions and peace building operations are also in focus in May

INSTITUTE FOR SECURITY STUDIES (ISS)

How EU Sanctions Work: A New Narrative

by Francesco Giumelli

13 May 2013

[link to the article](#)

According to the ongoing debate on the EU's sanctioning practices, there are two main scenarios for the future, argues the paper. The first one is that the importance of sanctions will be substantially reduced. But the more likely one is that the Council could also return to adopting broader forms of sanctions, such as sectoral measures and embargoes, argues the author in the conclusions of his detailed analysis of the current situation.

ISTITUTO AFFARI INTERNAZIONALI

EU Engagement with Local Civil Society in the Great Lakes Region

by María Martín de Almagro Iniesta

7 May 2013

[link to the article](#)

The EU's peace building framework is unmatched in its social, economic and political potential for resolving conflict, argues the paper. But at a time when three civilian missions have just been deployed on the African continent, the paper argues that there is a gap between the definition of what constitutes local civil society and the practices concerning its involvement in EU policies. Improving the understanding of how local civil society can be a partner for peace for the EU is critical for the success of EU missions in countries such as the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and EU Delegation tasks in countries such as Burundi, says the author.

External action policies and their international but also domestic impact are in focus in a few analyses

REAL INSTITUTO ELCANO

Strengthening the EU as a Global Actor: the EEAS and the Europeanization of National Diplomacies

by various authors

27 May 2013

[link to the article](#)

The paper describes and analyses some of the most important issues regarding European External Action Service. It presents an overview of the impact of the EEAS on the national diplomacies of nine member states: Germany, France, the UK, Spain, Poland, Romania, the Netherlands, Portugal and Sweden. The main conclusion drawn from the country cases is that the domestic impact of the EEAS is still very limited in institutional, organisational and strategic terms.

THE FINNISH INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Counterterrorism in External Action: The EU's Toolbox for Responding to Terrorism Abroad

by Teemu Sinkkonen

14 May 2013

[link to the article](#)

Currently, the European counterterrorism structures that are related to external action seem to suffer from overlapping structures, institutional complexity and a lack of will for further integration, argues the paper. It concludes that good bilateral relations are the best tool for preventing terrorism in the European neighbourhood. The author also underlines that special attention needs to be paid to the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership countries due to recent political change and armed conflicts that raise the risk level in the region.

CENTRE FOR EUROPEAN POLICY STUDIES (CEPS) / NOTRE EUROPE - JACQUES DELORS

EU Migration Policy after the Arab Spring: The Pitfalls of Home Affairs Diplomacy

by Sergio Carrera, Joanna Parkin and Leonhard den Hertog

2 May 2013

[link to the article](#)

Despite the application of the Lisbon Treaty and the creation of a European External Action Service (EEAS), an ever-expanding "Home Affairs diplomacy", propounded by the Commission's DG Home, certain EU agencies such as Frontex and the working structures of the Council, continue to dominate policy formulation on the external dimensions of EU migration policies, argues the paper. The fact that there are too many agents playing in EU's Global Approach to Migration and Mobility (GAMM) with antinomic agendas makes difficult the formulation of long term, clear and coherent policy in the field - that's one of the main points of the authors who also make concrete proposals for future changes.

Some think tanks analyse and offer suggestions for further reforms of the European legislation

CENTRE FOR EUROPEAN POLICY STUDIES (CEPS)

A Viable Alternative to Basel III Prudential Capital Rules

by Stefano Micossi

30 May 2013

[link to the article](#)

How is it that the Basel III Prudential Capital Rules are still receiving full official endorsement by officialdom, while utterly discredited in the eyes of financial markets and academia, and implemented divergingly by the EU and the US? The Basel framework for bank prudential requirements is deeply flawed: it's time to rewrite it, is the answer of the author who presents his analysis and suggestions on the subject.

THE LISBON COUNCIL

Copyright Reform for Growth and Jobs: Modernising the European Copyright Framework

by Ian Hargreaves and Bernt Hugenholtz

29 May 2013

[link to the article](#)

The authors of the paper look at the economic arguments for reforming and modernising Europe's copyright regime. They also present a menu of possible options to policymakers and propose eight ideas for reform – seven evolutionary, one revolutionary.

NOTRE EUROPE - JACQUES DELORS INSTITUTE

The Nitrates Directive, Incompatible with Livestock Farming? The Case of France and Northern European Countries

by Philippe Le Goffe

30 May 2013

[link to the article](#)

The policies enacted in the Northern European countries are more in line with economic analysis recommendations than France's policy, argues the paper. Based on this observation, the author puts forward several recommendations that could improve the ecological and economic efficiency of French policy.

SECTION 2 - EU FOREIGN POLICIES

The Syrian conflict from an international and EU perspective is being covered in a number of papers, as is the Israeli-Palestinian conflict

THE HEINRICH BÖLL FOUNDATION / IKV PAX CHRISTI

What Can the European Union Do in Syria?

by Dr. Bente Scheller, Haid Haid and Jan Jaap Oosterzee

31 May 2013

[link to the article](#)

The EU's current approach to encourage countries around Syria to keep their borders open needs to be backed up with more funding, especially in the context of the rising numbers of refugees, argues the paper. Restrictive visa policies of the EU still make it difficult for Syrian voices to be heard, because many can simply not enter and advocate their cause, underline the authors and give concrete recommendations for the future EU policies. The joint policy paper is a follow-up to the closed workshop "The responsibility to protect in Syria - What can the European Union do?", organized by both organizations.

INTERNATIONAL CRISIS GROUP

Too Close for Comfort: Syrians in Lebanon

13 May 2013

[link to the article](#)

Syria's conflict is dragging down its neighbours, none more perilously than Lebanon. Beirut's official policy of "dissociation" is right in theory but increasingly dubious in practice, argues the paper. It also comments that it's probably unrealistic to expect Lebanese actors to take a step back, but it ought not be unrealistic to expect them – and their international partners – to adopt a more forward-looking approach to a refugee crisis that risks tearing apart their own country's economic, social and political fabric, igniting a new domestic conflict that a weak Lebanese state and volatile region can ill afford.

INSTITUT EUROPÉEN DES RELATIONS INTERNATIONALES

Trancher le Nœud Gordien en Syrie ?

by Jacques LIPPERT

24 May 2013

[link to the article](#) (in French)

The Syrian conflict has become the Gordian knot of international politics in the Near and Middle East, the epicentre of a possible geopolitical earthquake where anybody, especially the United States, has no right to make mistakes, argues the paper. The analysis also underlines that the volatility of the issue is such that each day that passes makes it more complex and dangerous.

EUROPEAN COUNCIL ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Europe and the Vanishing Two-state Solution

by Nick Witney

9 May 2013

[link to the article](#)

Europe is in a unique position to rescue to the two state solution to Israel/Palestine, but it must display tough love to both parties before it is too late, argues the author. On Israel,

the EU must stop extending benefits (like market access and EU grants) to settlement-based individuals and enterprises is one of his recommendations. He also suggests that the Union must taper off the €1 billion aid to the Palestinians. And instead it must support development projects and push the Israelis to allow the Palestinian economy room to grow. The executive summary of the report is also available in Arabic.

EU-Asia relations are a major topic for a number of think tanks this month. Some of them go even deeper and analyse the national policies of Member States such as Greece, Sweden, Poland, and the Czech Republic towards Asia

FRIDE

The European Union in Asia's Alphabet Soup

by Gauri Khandekar

13 May 2013

[link to the article](#)

With a growing power shift towards Asia, it is essential to understand the hybrid regional architecture evolving in the region and to evaluate how the EU engages within various Asian fora, argues the paper. The paper offers an insight on how the EU could enhance its engagement in the region. In May Fride has also published reports, analyzing the national policies of [Greece](#) and [Sweden](#) towards Central Asia and particular countries in the region.

PETERSON INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL ECONOMICS

The Rise of Emerging Asia: Regional Peace and Global Security

by Miles Kahler

May 2013

[link to the article](#)

The rapid economic rise of China, India, and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations could have several effects on regional peace and global security, argues the paper. The power transition perspective overstates the risk of conflict that results from convergence between dominant and challenger states. Rapid changes in economic and military capabilities can, however, have negative consequences for regional peace and global security, comments the author.

STOCKHOLM INTERNATIONAL PEACE RESEARCH INSTITUTE (SIPRI)

Europe, Afghanistan and the Transatlantic Relationship after 2014

by Erik Brattberg

May 2013

[link to the article](#)

As the December 2014 deadline for the withdrawal of international forces from Afghanistan approaches, it is already clear that NATO's future footprint in the country will be markedly smaller, argues the paper. It explores the importance of ISAF to the alliance between Europe and the United States. The author also argues that, as Europe ponders its post-2014 role in Afghanistan, it is imperative that it considers its future role as a global actor within the context of the transatlantic relationship.

THE POLISH INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Doing Business with Tigers: Trends, Features and Prospects for Poland's Trade with Asia

by Artur Gradziuk and Patryk Toporowski

24 May 2013

[link to the article](#)

In 2012, the value of Polish exports to Asian markets rose by €1 billion compared with 2011, and Polish entrepreneurs now seem less fearful when starting a business there. For Asian countries in turn cooperation with Poland is becoming the key to the European market, outlines the paper. The authors of the report stress that alongside the largest trading Asian partner China, the other Asian markets, in particular India and Kazakhstan, are also important for the Polish exporters. Poland's presence in Japan and South Korea is growing, and trade with Asia is beneficial in particular for the Polish chemical, cosmetic, food and machinery industries.

INSTYTUT SOBIESKIEGO

Industrializacja Korei Południowej – Co Polska Może Wykorzystać?

by Mateusz Kędzierski

14 May 2013

[link to the article](#) (in Polish)

One of the most important, if not the most important, factor in the economic development of South Korea, was the expansion of the industrial sector, which now accounts for the strength of the Korean economy and its position in the global division of labour. The paper looks at the processes in the country during the last 60 years, searching for inspiration for the industrial policies in Poland.

EUROPEUM

Analysis: Features of Foreign Trade Between the Czech Republic and Asia

by Erich Kříž

10 May 2013

[link to the article](#)

The Czech government has already implemented a new strategic approach towards foreign trade, known as Export strategy 2012-2020, says the paper which gives a deep analysis of it. The paper suggests continuing liberalization of trade in the case of EU and underlines that the Czech Republic should also pay more attention to countries in Asia like Singapore.

SPOTLIGHT ON...
EUROPEUM

[EUROPEUM](#) Institute for European Policy is one of the main think tanks in the Czech Republic. It was founded in 1998 as a civic association by lecturers at the Department of European Studies at the Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University in Prague. It was focused on researchers and university students interested in European integration and was funded by the Tempus program of the European Commission. Later EUROPEUM evolved into a think tank and currently undertakes research, publishing and educational activities. The main topics, followed by the experts in the non-partisan organisation, are EU politics and institutions, EU policies and budget, EU enlargement, freedom, security, justice and citizenship. Among the current donors of the think tank are the European Commission, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic, Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, Heinrich-Boell-Stiftung, British Council and etc.

EUROPEAN INSTITUTE FOR ASIAN STUDIES (EIAS)
Japan-EU Collaboration Towards Re-emergence of Europe

by Aiichiro Yamamoto

May 2013

[link to the article](#)

Japan and the EU can work together for a more stable and resilient world, argues the paper. The author comments that if the EU is to strengthen its capability to respond to global challenges by strengthening coordination among the external EU institutions such as the EEAS, DG DEVCO and DG Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (DG ECHO), Japan will be the best partner for the EU to help Europe to re-emerge as a global player.

Some papers argue that there are a lot of common interests between the EU and countries such as Mexico and Brazil, as well as countries in North Africa

THE POLISH INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
Polish–Mexican Cooperation: Where Does Poland Stand?

by Kinga Brudzińska

23 May 2013

[link to the article](#)

Poland and Mexico have unexplored potential for cooperation, argues the paper. Mexico, which has outperformed Brazil in economic growth for the last two years, has a highly open, emerging market with strong links to the rest of the world, including a free trade agreement with the EU, underline the author. Furthermore, the reforms planned by the new administration, in particular in the energy sector, may result in Mexico's oil and gas industry opening up to foreign participation. At the same time, Poland is improving its economic and political standing in the EU and is looking for closer cooperation with Latin America.

CENTRE FOR EUROPEAN POLICY STUDIES (CEPS)
The EU and Brazil: Partnering in an Uncertain World?
by Giovanni Grevi
13 May 2013
[link to the article](#)

Despite different outlooks to 21st century challenges, declining EU and rising Brazil have many interests in common and a strategic cooperation between the two would make sense, argues the paper. This strategic partnership may grow stronger not only as a platform to deepen economic ties and sustain growth, but also as a tool to foster cooperation in political and security affairs including crisis management, preventive diplomacy and human rights, comments the author.

BERTELSMANN STIFTUNG
The Changing Face of North Africa. An Opportunity for and with Europe
Christian - Peter Hanelt and Sven Behrendt
May 2013
[link to the article](#)

The latest issue of the Bertelsmann Stiftung magazine "Spotlight Europe" takes a look at the current situation in five North African countries – Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya and Egypt – as they transition into democracies and social market economies. The analysis focuses in particular on the considerable socioeconomic challenges and on the various ways Europe is affected by the situation there. Europe's role in the strategically important southern Mediterranean area needs to be realigned in order to promote the development of democracy, employment opportunities, and security, argues the paper and adds that there is a great deal of potential for cooperation with the five countries in focus.

EU- Russia relations receive attention this month too

CARNEGIE MOSCOW CENTER
The End of an Era in EU-Russia Relations
by Dmitri Trenin, Maria Lipman and Alexey Malashenko
30 May 2013
[link to the article](#)

Russia is no longer "Europeanizing" and is rebalancing its interests to its Eurasian neighbours and China, argues the paper. As such EU's Russia policy must take into account a less open Russia and keep the relation focussed on goals/targets rather than values, comment the authors.

A paper makes suggestions for improvement in the EU-Turkey visa dialogue

EUROPEAN STABILITY INITIATIVE
Cutting the Visa Knot. How Turks Can Travel Freely to Europe
21 May 2013
[link to the article](#)

The EU-Turkey visa dialogue cannot be successful if it is seen as a quasi-accession exercise, argues the paper. It underlines that Turkey needs to formulate its own firm but constructive response to the EU's proposal for establishing a dialogue on visa liberalisation. The report also gives concrete steps and advices. It also reminds that this

year is the 50-Turkey-EU Association Agreement anniversary and that there has never before been an EU candidate country that had been negotiating accession for years and whose citizens were unable to travel without a visa.

The transatlantic cooperation and its current challenges are also on the table this month

THE GERMAN MARSHALL FUND OF THE UNITED STATES

For a New Transatlantic Strategic Sequence: In, Near, and Beyond Europe

by Michel Foucher

16 May 2013

[link to the article](#)

There are still many gaps to be bridged between the United States and Europe in terms of strategic thinking and national versus global outlook, which leave the transatlantic partners poorly equipped to adapt to new economic realities and their strategic consequences, argues the paper. The United States and Europe now face the challenges of reconciling their strategic priorities in a context where the combination on the powers on both sides could prove instrumental in finding answers to the current geopolitical and economic challenges, says the author.

An comparative analysis of the French foreign policy in Africa from Sarkozy to Hollande comes to interesting conclusions

CHATHAM HOUSE

A New Way to Engage? French Policy in Africa from Sarkozy to Hollande

by Paul Melly and Vincent Darracq

May 2013

[link to the article](#)

France wields a level of influence in sub-Saharan Africa that it cannot command anywhere else in the world, argues the paper. It offers a comparative analysis of style and approach between Sarkozy and Hollande. Intervention in Mali, and the tactful diplomacy that accompanied it, have fostered a refreshing mood of goodwill and mutual respect that may help to dissolve the mistrust that has so often undermined a connection that remains important to both France and Africa, argues the paper. The challenge now will be to sustain this reinvigorated partnership over the long term, comments the author.

REGARDS CROISÉS

THE POLISH INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

The Renegotiation Delusion? Nine Questions about Britain's EU future

by Agata Gostyńska, Roderick Parkes, Paweł Tokarski, Patryk Toporowski and Marta Stormowska

7 May 2013

[link to the article](#)

The paper analyses options such as the UK leaving the EU or adopting a new membership status. The precedent of associate status for the United Kingdom could undermine Polish efforts to prevent a dilution of the EU's enlargement policy. But above all, it would raise the question of participation rights in decision-making in policy areas to which not all Member States are party—in Poland's case, the eurozone, comment the authors.

SPECIAL FOCUS: ENERGY

RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF THE FINNISH ECONOMY (ETLA)

The Global Energy Markets In a Strong Change

by Janusz Chojna, Miklós Losoncz and Paavo Suni

15 May 2013

[link to the article](#)

The fossil energy markets are in a rapid change due to rising use of non-conventional resources of crude oil and natural gas especially in the US, argues the paper. In Europe the Polish production is expected to start in the next few years, although environmental concerns delay the beginning. This new production prompted by strongly risen crude oil prices, is increasing oil production markedly and the “end of oil” is being moved back, comments the author.

THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR STRATEGIC STUDIES (IISS)

Gas Finds Complicate Eastern Mediterranean Security

15 May 2013

[link to the article](#)

The discovery of natural gas has complicated rivalries in the Eastern Mediterranean, an area already full of long-standing security issues, argues the paper. The complex nature of the overlapping claims, history of conflict in the region and potential riches available to cash-strapped nations make it more difficult to resolve the various disputes. As such, the Eastern Mediterranean now presents a long-term security dilemma for regional states, complicated by the convulsions of the Arab spring and the interests of extra-regional powers, argues the paper.

THE FINNISH INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS (FIIA)

The German Energy Transition: Status, Challenges and the Finnish Perspective

by Patrick Matschoss

02 May 2013

[link to the article](#)

Germany has now risen to the dual challenge of tailoring its electricity system to variable renewable energy while simultaneously pulling out of its considerable nuclear capacity, underlines the paper. These developments, part of the energy transition of the country (Energiewende) will also have an impact on Finland due to Germany’s energy hub function and its (indirect) connection to Nord Pool Spot, the Nordic electricity market, says the author.

INSTITUTO PORTUGUÊS DE RELAÇÕES INTERNACIONAIS

A Segurança Energética de Portugal e o Magrebe

by Catarina Mendes Leal

31 May 2013

[link to the article](#) (in Portuguese)

The European Union is having closer and closer relations with North African countries which are related to energy supply, human and social issues. In Portugal, which is a poor country on energy resources, this fact is even more important, argue the author. He

presents and analyses the different scenarios connected with the development of the relations between Portugal and the Maghreb countries on the energy issues.