



General Secretariat of the Council
Central Library

THINK TANK REVIEW

Issue 6
July 2013

Dear Readers,

Welcome to issue 6 of the **Think Tank Review** (TTR) compiled¹ by the Central Library at the General Secretariat of the Council.

This issue, covering publications that appeared in June, is in fact marked by two events that took place on the 1st of July: the accession of Croatia to the EU, which we mark by linking to various papers on the 28th Member State and on EU enlargement in general, and the beginning of the Lithuanian presidency of the Council, which we highlight through a point of view from a neighbouring country.

The rest of our rich harvest of think tank publications for this month broadly falls under three headings. The first is a focus on national dynamics, with papers on the UK, France, Germany, Greece, Sweden. This national perspective is also reflected in the Regards croisés section with a German paper on Spain. Under the second heading, the crisis, the June [European Council](#) obviously triggered considerable think tank activity. We find it reflected in papers on welfare, the banking union, access to finance, and unemployment - the latter with a paper challenging the prevailing focus on youth unemployment. The third heading, sectorial policies, sees a continuing interest on energy policy issues, but also some substantial papers on defence, which build towards the December 2013 European Council. One of these papers is by the long-standing Istituto Affari Internazionali, of which we also sketch a short profile in our Spotlight On section.

In the external policies section, Syria attracts the bulk of attention, but we also note, among the usual wide variety, a Greek paper on the Albanian elections.

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.

¹ 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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EUROPEAN POLITICS AND INSTITUTIONS

27-28 June 2013 European Council

FRIEDRICH EBERT STIFTUNG

Dreimal Regimewechsel für Europa: im Süden, in Brüssel, in Deutschland – Überlegungen zum Junigipfel 2013

by Karl Aiginger

June 2013

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

In this paper for the Ebert Stiftung, one of Germany's state-funded, party-political foundations, professor Aiginger from the Austrian Institut für Wirtschaftsforschung argues for a rebalancing of growth and austerity measures. New policy vision should apply, in his view, both in the EU institutions, in Southern Europe, and in the more competitive countries in the North. While a long term restructuring - if not a write off - of debt in crisis-stricken countries should be considered, he argues, Germany should allow wages to increase at least in line with productivity. Further policy insights along these lines are being developed in the project "WWW for Europe. Welfare-Wealth-Growth" (<http://www.foreurope.eu/>) coordinated by prof. Aiginger.

THE LISBON COUNCIL

Economic Intelligence: The 27-28 June 2013 European Council

by Alessandro Leibold

25 June 2013

[link to the preview](#), [link to the post-Summit](#)

Ahead of the European Council, the first of these two papers investigates key issues facing European policymakers as they meet to tackle youth unemployment, access to finance, banking-sector stability and economic growth. Author Alessandro Leibold makes three recommendations for solving them. In the second document, he offers an up-to-the-minute analysis of the principal achievements and conclusions.

INSTITUT EUROPÉEN DES RELATIONS INTERNATIONALES

Cartographier l'improbable. L'Union européenne sans la Grande-Bretagne et la recomposition géopolitique du continent européen

by Franck Debié

7 June 2013

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

An exercise in geopolitical science fiction trying to chart conditions and consequences of a Brexit scenario, which would have to be negotiated under article 50 of the Lisbon Treaty. The UK should then also conclude free-trade agreements with the EU and with the US. The City, argues to author, would develop into an off-shore financial platform, and more British activism in fora such as the NATO and G8 should be expected.

European Banking Union

PETERSON INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL ECONOMICS

A Realistic Bridge Towards European Banking Union

by Nicolas Véron

June 2013

[link to the article](#), alternative link at [BRUEGEL](#)

New obstacles to the European banking union have emerged over the last year, but a successful transition remains necessary and possible, this paper says. The ECB gains supervisory authority over most of Europe's banking system in late 2014, but first there must be a rigorous balance sheet assessment that is likely to trigger significant bank restructuring, for which preparation has

not started, according to the author. This step will be more consequential than current discussions about a bank resolution directive and bank recapitalization by the ESM.

FONDATION ROBERT SCHUMAN

The Future of Retirement Pensions in the European Union

by Florence Legros

10 June 2013

[link to the article](#) *(available in English and French)*

Over 10 years ago, the "open coordination method" was introduced to launch a process whereby the various national retirement systems would draw closer together. However, "it has to be admitted that the retirement systems in Europe still differ greatly in the way they function and in terms of their financial situation in spite of forecasts of an ageing population," this paper says. An in-depth reform of the retirement systems in Europe is needed, and this will probably have to start with changes in behaviour.

REAL INSTITUTO ELCANO

After the storm: international monetary implications of a reborn euro

by Federico Steinberg

8 July 2013

[link to the article](#)

A German joke describes voting as a wolf and a lamb sitting around a table deciding together what's for dinner. To survive, the Eurozone must be reborn and "germanised". But would the Eurozone survive Germanisation? And what kind of rebirth, made by decision makers and decision takers? Would such reborn Eurozone face the challenges not just on the EU level but on the global scale, the authors wonder, harking back to Bretton Woods.

Euroscepticism

SWEDISH INSTITUTE FOR EUROPEAN POLICY STUDIES

The confidence in the European Union project

by Gustavsson Sverker

June 2013

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

The confidence in the European Union project is waning because distinctions between political and economic liberalism are not clearly defined, Sverker Gustavsson argues in this European Policy Analysis. Political parties, interest groups and opinion-makers should therefore explain the significance of the project and shed light on inconsistencies. Otherwise it will become even more difficult for the citizens to see the added value of EU membership, the author argues.

Social competition

NOTRE EUROPE - JACQUES DELORS INSTITUTE

Social Competition in the EU: Myths and Realities

by Kristina Maslauskaitė

5 June 2013

[link to the article](#)

The debate on social competition, or social dumping, has been getting louder in the recent years due to economic turmoil and high levels of unemployment in many of the member states. Public opinion and politicians are worried that intense competition in the cost of labour between the member states might result in the "race to the bottom" in terms of social standards. This study aims to provide a global analysis of the various existing components of social competition in the EU in order to see whether the differences between member states leave enough space for engaging in a generalised "social dumping".

Franco-German relation

FONDATION ROBERT SCHUMAN

Franco-German cooperation: productive tension

by Henrik Uterwedde

3 June 2013

[link to the article](#) (available in English and French)

Although the quest for solutions to the eurozone crisis has been interspersed by Franco-German controversies, both governments finally drew closer together and are fostering European compromise, the author of this paper says. National differences, which are inevitable and legitimate in the economic sphere, do not impede vital convergence. Making good use of differences to take Europe forward, is the permanent challenge for the leaders in both countries.

European Defence and Security

ISTITUTO AFFARI INTERNAZIONALI

More Europe on Defence or No Europe

edited by Alessandro Marrone e Michele Nones

27 June 2013

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

Austerity makes it impossible to maintain the required military capacity at national level; more European integration in defence is the only way forward, argues this paper by the *Istituto* founded by Altiero Spinelli. The paper - meant as input towards the December 2013 European Council - reviews existing plans in, for example, pooling and sharing of resources, dual technologies, joint procurement.

CLINGENDAEL

Why the EU is not promoting effective multilateralism. On a fundamental flaw in the European Security Strategy

by Louise van Schaik and Barend ter Haar

June 2013

[link to the article](#)

Although the EU adopted effective multilateralism in 2003 as a core principle of its European Security Strategy, it has accomplished little in this field, mainly because of a fundamental inconsistency in its approach, this paper says. The Strategy obfuscated the fact that promoting effective multilateralism requires active involvement and commitment on the part of the whole government, not just of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Defence.

THE HERITAGE FOUNDATION

EU Defence Integration: Undermining NATO, Transatlantic Relations, and Europe's Security

by Luke Coffey

6 June 2013

[link to the article](#)

Far from improving the military capabilities of European countries, the CSDP decouples the US from European security and will ultimately weaken the NATO alliance, this paper argues. US policymakers should watch CSDP developments closely and discourage the EU from deepening defence integration. The consequences would be great, the author argues. It would mean an end to Europe being a serious security actor on the global stage, due to the veto power of the EU's five neutral members, coupled with bureaucratic inertia.

SPOTLIGHT ON...

[Istituto Affari Internazionali - IAI](#)

The IAI, a not-for-profit organization under Italian Law, was established in Rome in 1965 by Altiero Spinelli, one of the key protagonists of European integration in Italy.

Its around 30 researchers are active in the fields of EU integration, security and defence, neighbourhood, transatlantic relation, the Middle East. IAI organises some 40 conference and workshop yearly and is a member of several research networks at European and global level.

The institute benefits from a standing grant by the Italian foreign ministry.

Apart from a variety of Research Papers and IAI publishes the peer-reviewed quarterly [The International Spectator](#), available in print and online from the Central Library.

The Crisis

RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF THE FINNISH ECONOMY

Convergence, income distribution, and the economic crisis in Europe

by Ville Kaitila

17 June 2013

[link to the article](#)

This paper analyses the convergence of purchasing power adjusted GDP per capita and GDP per hour worked in the EU. It also links the development in income distribution as measured by Gini coefficients to convergence. The Great Recession was an upset for convergence, the paper shows. The largest relative declines have occurred in Cyprus, Greece, Italy, Portugal and Spain. However, the ex-transition countries have mostly continued their catching up.

BRUEGEL

Bank versus non-bank credit in the United States, Europe and China

by Nicolas Véron

5 June 2013

[link to the article](#)

A case study on the effects, or lack thereof, of non-bank credit in the US, Europe and China during the US financial crisis of 2007-09 and the EU financial crisis since 2007. While extensive data on non-bank credit is lacking, hints seem to indicate a beneficial or non-negative effect of such a sector, in limiting the credit-crunch effect of the crisis (US) or easing access to credit (China).

Central bank cooperation during the great recession

by Francesco Papadia

20 June 2013

[link to the article](#)

The "Great Recession" has been the stage where central banks resorted to an unprecedented level of cooperation, going well beyond their traditional remit of domestic intervention in their local currency, in the form of a swap network between central banks in foreign currencies. While effective, such a swap network should remain an ad-hoc arrangement and not be institutionalized, lest impinging on central bank independency and control, this paper argues.

THE GERMAN MARSHALL FUND OF THE UNITED STATES

A Silver Lining? Why Recent Reforms in Greece Warrant Cautious Optimism

by Jürgen Matthes

4 June 2013

[link to the article](#)

2012 was a very difficult year for Greece. In spite of a new government and a renewed reform effort, the economy still appears to be shrinking. Recently, however, first signs of a silver lining are appearing on the horizon. The economic sentiment has improved and, upon closer analysis, the total reform record over the past years is considerable, this paper contends. Although the Greek economy still has several obstacles to overcome, the glass actually appears half full rather than half empty.

KIEL INSTITUTE FOR THE WORLD ECONOMY

IfW-Krisencheck: Alles wieder gut in Griechenland?

by Klaus Schrader, David Bencek and Claus-Friedrich Laaser

June 2013

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

The Kiel Institute takes a less optimistic view than other observers on the economic situation in Greece, still under the pressure of debt and unaccomplished reform. To reverse the trend, an entirely new societal model for Greece is needed, breaking with the growth based on credit-fuelled domestic demand in the 2000s. Besides an "investment offensive", that should make the country attractive again for foreign (or Greek abroad) investors, a 60-70% cut in nominal debt is also to be considered, according to the authors, as a condition to restore primary surplus. The paper carries in the appendix an overview of structural reforms planned in Greece based on Commission- and other sources.

SWEDISH INSTITUTE FOR EUROPEAN POLICY STUDIES

Sweden's influence in the EU after the crisis

by Jerneck Magnus

June 2013

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

In this European Policy Analysis, Magnus Jerneck argues that enhanced cooperation between the euro countries presents Sweden with a decisive challenge. According to the author, EU Member States that choose to remain outside the Monetary Union will find it increasingly difficult to exert influence in the EU. The risk of political marginalization is set against supranationality, and autonomy against possibly increased political influence in the Union, he argues.

THE LISBON COUNCIL

Lessons from Three Years of Euro-Area Crisis Fighting: Getting It Right Next Time

by Alessandro Leibold

6 June 2013

[link to the article](#)

As the debate on Europe's crisis fighting strategy deepens with the leak of a critical IMF document pointing to deep flaws in the European decision-making process, the Lisbon Council launches a new policy brief, Lessons from Three Years of Euro-Area Crisis Fighting: Getting It Right Next Time. The policy brief offers a nine-point strategy for improving decision making and fighting the European crisis more effectively.

THE INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AND EUROPEAN AFFAIRS

Strategies for a Small State in a Large Union

by Brendan Halligan

4 June 2013

[link to the article](#)

This paper formed the basis of a lecture by Brendan Halligan to members of the IIEA on Europe Day. Drawing examples from the experience of Irish politician Garret FitzGerald, it considers the process by which Ireland became a 'psychological insider' within the Union, Ireland's approach to the use of its veto, and the way in which a small state can maximise its role in a large union. The paper presents guiding principles which the author suggests may be of use for decision makers.

CEPS

Unemployment is the scourge, not youth unemployment per se - The misguided policy preoccupation with youth

by Mikkel Barslund and Daniel Gros

26 June 2013

[link to the article](#)

Why all the hype on youth unemployment, this paper asks. The general unemployment levels are high but according to the authors of this paper, youth related data do not deviate significantly from that of the general population at large. The authors contend that youth unemployment does not deserve special attention, that little can be done at the EU level, and what is being done is counterproductive at the expense of other age groups.

Lithuanian Presidency of the Council

THE POLISH INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Lithuania at the Helm of the EU: Regional Cooperation on the Rise

by Kinga Dudzińska and Agata Gostyńska

1 July 2013

[link to the article](#)

There are expectations that Vilnius will use its six months at the helm of the EU to act as a bridge between the euro "ins" and "outs," as well as between proponents of a growth agenda and those in the austerity camp. There are also hopes that Lithuania will propel the debate on the EMU, Eastern Partnership, Single Market and energy. Warsaw would seem to have much to gain from a Council presidency run in this manner. Yet, Poland's north-eastern neighbour is unlikely to fully meet its potential in these areas. Rather, the contribution of the Lithuanian presidency will be to highlight the growing importance of regional forums in EU affairs, something of importance to Poland and a possible new stimulus for Polish–Lithuanian cooperation.

Climate and Energy

INSTITUT FRANÇAIS DES RELATIONS INTERNATIONALES

La transition énergétique : un défi pour l'industrie allemande

by Hubertus Bardt

June 2013

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

Having opted for renewable sources to an unprecedented extent, Germany is confronting its industry with several challenges in terms of prices, security of supply, storage and grid development, in a process that could go to the detriment of the more energy-intensive industries. The paper argues that this requires a balanced approach combining the free functioning of markets and regulation. Further integration in the European energy sector is also advisable, especially in electricity.

STIFTUNG WISSENSCHAFT UND POLITIK

Modifying the 2°C Target. Climate Policy Objectives in the Contested Terrain of Scientific Policy Advice, Political Preferences, and Rising Emissions

by Oliver Geden

June 2013

[link to the article](#)

When it comes to climate policy, one of the few points the international community agrees on is the objective of limiting the temperature increase to two degrees Celsius. However, this goal is patently unrealistic, this paper argues. And since a target that is obviously unattainable can fulfil neither a positive symbolic function, nor a productive governance function, the primary target of international climate policy will have to be modified.

THE INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AND EUROPEAN AFFAIRS

A New Wave of European Climate and Energy Policy: Towards a 2030 Framework

by Gina Hanrahan

11 June 2013

[link to the article](#)

This policy brief attempts to provide an understanding of the current debates and to illuminate the key challenges in designing a new wave of European climate policy. It first sets out the current EU energy and climate framework and discusses progress made to date, before going on to outline a range of key challenges in the design of a 2030 framework.

Living within our Means: Water and Resource Efficiency in the EU

by Ryan Meade

6 June 2013

[link to the article](#)

Our current patterns of water use have developed in a context where the full costs of exploiting this vital natural resource were not borne by the users, this paper says. As a result our societies have become dependent on inefficient practices. The paper sets out the European policy context for water efficiency before going on to explore key challenges and opportunities, and asking whether resource efficiency is the right paradigm for sustainable water use.

FRIENDS OF EUROPE

EU's internal energy market: Tough decisions and a daunting agenda

4 June 2013

[link to the article](#)

The EU has come a long way since the market liberalisation process started, this paper says. Europe in 2013 is no longer a patchwork of different national energy systems, each with its own national company controlling the entire sector. Increasingly integrated markets through independently operated networks make it easier today for new players to enter the market. As the market matures, prices become more fair and more reliable. But completing the internal market is complex, and a lot still needs to be done.

INSTITUTE FOR PUBLIC POLICY RESEARCH

Running on empty? Why the UK needs Europe for affordable and secure energy

by Clare McNeil

24 June 2013

[link to the article](#)

The UK needs interconnection with Europe to secure its short-term and long-term energy security, this paper says. More widely, greater energy market integration is needed to boost Europe's competitiveness and improve levels of energy security across the continent. This report argues that a single, interconnected energy market in Europe will reduce energy prices for consumers and business and help accommodate an expansion of renewable energy.

CENTRE FOR EASTERN STUDIES

The Gas Target Model for the Visegrad 4 Region

by Marka Karpia

19 June 2013

[link to the article](#)

Given the similarity of the Visegrad 4's gas market problems, on the way to implementing the EU Gas Target Model endorsed by the Madrid Gas Regulatory Forum, it makes sense to develop a Visegrad 4 "local" Gas Target Model. Infrastructure investments and interconnection, as well as market concentration, are key to achieve a secure, competitive and functional natural gas market in Central Europe.

CEPS

Deploying the Energy Incentive: Reinforcing EU Integration in South-East Europe

by Alan Riley

8 July 2013

[link to the article](#)

The author argues that problems with respect to the rule of law and corruption in some southern European states will hinder the efforts to establish a sustainable stable and competitive market in the Energy Community. An EFTA style legal framework (institutions, rules and procedures) is required to further the EU energy acquis, fostering investment and, hopefully, with spill-over effects on domains beyond energy.

STIFTUNG WISSENSCHAFT UND POLITIK

Energy Efficiency Policy in Russia: Scope for EU-Russia Cooperation

by Alexander Gusev

June 2013

[link to the article](#)

In the mid-term, electricity prices in Russia for both industry and private consumers will continue to rise and will reach EU levels in 2015–2016. Simultaneously, the increase of transmission fees in electricity prices in Russia will further stimulate the development of decentralized generation, which tends to be cheaper than centralized generation. Although these trends open new opportunities for bilateral projects between Russia and the EU, major problems remain in Russia, such as an incomplete legal basis and the prioritizing of administrative methods.

CEPS

Pathways to Low Carbon Transport in the EU – From Possibility to Reality

by Arie Bleijenberg, Christian Egenhofer, Arno Behrens, Vasileios Rizos, Monica Alessi

12 June 2013

[link to the article](#)

The 2050 deadline for 60% target of reduction of greenhouse gas in European transports is ambitious but possible, providing the relative cost are met, today and in the future, this paper argues. On the technological front, it should be targeted through energy efficiency and switching to low carbon fuels; on the regulatory front through setting legal and technical standards to be achieved; and in general through judicious use of incentives.

SPECIAL FOCUS: Croatia and enlargement

CEPS

Croatia and the EU: The Catch-Up Issue

by Katarina Ott

28 June 2013

[link to the article](#)

Had the situation been different in the 1990s, with Croatia in a position to start the EU accession process along with Slovenia, it might well have expected to see a transfer of European values by now, such as openness, democracy, the rule of law and respect for individual rights, this paper says. Unfortunately, things did not turn out that way, and today Croatia finds itself with a lot of catching up to do. Although the EU might seem less appealing now than it once was, for Croatia it is still a Union worth joining.

FONDATION ROBERT SCHUMAN

Croatia's accession to the European Union: thoughts for Europe at a crossroads

by Thibault Bouthier

24 June 2013

[link to the article](#) *(available in English and French)*

Croatia became the 28th Member of the European Union in the 6th enlargement since 1950. It brings with it, this paper says, several interesting elements and it also bears some beneficial messages for the political leaders of both the Union and its States. These are pertinent at a time when there is great doubt about European integration. Croatia's accession confirms the EU's founding principles and reasserts their pertinence, but it also reveals the dangers present in the process and brings them into the context of the Western Balkans' recent past.

HELLENIC FOUNDATION FOR EUROPEAN & FOREIGN POLICY

Croatia's Odyssey: The Path and Prospects of a new EU Member

by Pavlos Koktsidis

26 June 2013

[link to the article](#)

Two decades after the end of the Yugoslav wars, and during a time when many in Western Europe grumble about the "reckless" EU enlargement that goes on autopilot, Croatia entered into the European community. Croatia has gone through an often bumpy and exceptionally demanding road in order to adopt standard institutional and administrative reforms, and settled a number of non-acquis issues raised by the European Council.

SWEDISH INSTITUTE FOR EUROPEAN POLICY STUDIES

Enlarging the European Union and deepening its fundamental rights protection

by Christophe Hillion

June 2013

[link to the article](#)

Respect for human rights is a value upon which the European Union is founded, and a precondition for an aspirant state to be considered as a candidate for membership. This paper looks back at the development of the fundamental rights discourse in the context of EU enlargement, particularly since the eastern expansion in 2004. The analysis also sheds light on the on-going discussion to find ways to address the discrepancy between the internal and external EU fundamental rights regimes.

INSTITUTE FOR EUROPEAN STUDIES

EU Enlargement: Lessons from, and Prospects for

by Emmanuel Dalle Mulle, Gerben Wedekind, Inge Depoorter, Thomas Sattich and Tomas Maltby
2013

[link to the article](#)

Focusing on climate and energy security policy, this paper first reflects upon the impact of the 2004/2007 enlargement on the EU. A reflection on the EU's recent past then follows, with a consideration that predictions of decision- and policy-making gridlock were not realised, that newer member states have proved influential, and that prospective member states cannot be expected to be passive nor impotent. The latter part of this paper evaluates the potential prospects and outcomes of these lessons with regard to future enlargement from within (Scotland and Catalonia), and without (Turkey).

EXTERNAL RELATIONS

Arab Spring

IEMED / EUROMESCO

Geo-Strategic Consequences of the Arab Spring

by Erzsébet Rózsa

June 2013

[link to the article](#)

In this EuroMeSCo Paper, Erzsébet Rózsa argues that the new actors brought to light by the revolutions and the democratisation processes - the "people" and the Islamists - are redefining the geo-strategic landscape of the region. While the "people" struggle to organise into durable political structures, the Islamists lead most of the new governments of the region, thus affecting their international agenda and relations with external powers such as the EU and the US.

FRIDE

The EU and the Palestinians: anticipating the third Intifada

by Romana Michelon

June 2013

[link to the article](#)

Until now, there has been no "Arab spring" for the Palestinians, possibly because of their unique situation with Israel, which is so dissimilar to the rest of the Arab world, this paper says. But while the EU seems oblivious to the possibility of a Palestinian uprising, it shouldn't be, the author argues. EU policy response to the Arab spring turmoil and regime changes at individual state level simply ignores that structural and irreversible changes are at play across the whole Arab world.

European Neighbourhood Policy

INSTITUT FÜR EUROPÄISCHE POLITIK

Conditionality and election performance within the framework of the European Neighbourhood Policy – the case study of the 2012 and 2013 elections in Armenia, Georgia and Ukraine

by Magdalena Nasieniak and Bogdana Depo

June 2013

[link to the article](#)

Recently, the EU brought conditionality to the fore of the reviewed European Neighbourhood Policy. This paper examines the substance and application of conditionality based on the example of the recent elections in the Eastern Partnership countries. The analysis of the EU's response shows stronger conditionality as positive election assessments are rewarded with additional financial assistance and facilitation of the Association Agreements' negotiations.

FRIEDRICH EBERT STIFTUNG

Our responsibility does not end at the EU's borders : for a committed European Union enlargement and neighbourhood policy

by several authors

June 2013

[link to the article](#)

The EU must develop its external capacity to act, this paper says. In order to achieve this it needs a reinvigorated and responsible policy when dealing with its neighbourhood and with the states involved in the enlargement process. This involves the use of stricter criteria and clearly verifiable progress as well as fairness and the credibility of the EU, especially as regards the countries in the Western Balkans and Turkey.

EU-US trade agreement

STIFTUNG WISSENSCHAFT UND POLITIK

Trade Agreement with Side-Effects? European Union and United States to Negotiate Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership

by Stormy-Annika Mildner and Claudia Schmucker

June 2013

[link to the article](#)

Negotiations between the EU and the US for a comprehensive Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) are not entirely without risks for global trade and the multilateral trading system, this paper says. The talks could tie up a considerable portion of EU and US negotiating capacity and divert attention from the WTO Doha Round, and trade-diverting effects could hurt other trading partners. Such side-effects should be avoided, the writers argue. They also highlight the importance of multilateral trade liberalisation, and stress that the "high road" of international trade policy must remain the WTO.

MADARIAGA

From a Destabilising Commercial Atlanticism to a Strategic US-EU-China Triologue

by Pierre Defraigne

June 2013

[link to the article](#) *(available in English and French)*

The Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP), put forward from a narrow viewpoint of trade policy, raises crucial issues that have been neglected until now, this paper says. Commissioner Karel de Gucht describes the TTIP as a 'transatlantic internal market' and an editorial writer for Le Monde has called it an 'economic NATO', directed against China's commercial strength. Exposing the scope of these highly political options is the purpose of this paper.

BERTELSMANN STIFTUNG

Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP). Who benefits from a free trade deal?

by Gabriel Felbermayr, Benedikt Heid and Sybille Lehwald

17 June 2013

[link to the article](#)

The US and all EU member countries would significantly benefit from a comprehensive Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP). If it is possible to largely eliminate not only tariffs but also non-tariff trade barriers, real gross domestic product per capita would significantly increase, and new jobs could be created. However, the social welfare gains in this largest free trade zone, with over 800 million inhabitants, would stand in contrast with real income and employment losses in the rest of the world, according to this Ifo Institute study commissioned by the Bertelsmann Foundation.

Russia

THE FINNISH INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Russia as an international actor: The view from Europe and the US

by Sean P. Roberts

18 June 2013

[link to the article](#)

This report examines how the Russian Federation is viewed in a broader context as an actor within the international system? Does Russia play a positive or negative role on the international stage and is Russia viewed as a strategic partner or a strategic competitor by other actors, including the European Union and the United States? The material presented is a symbiosis of opinions and analysis from European and US researchers and practitioners dealing with these questions, gathered during a number of roundtable discussions.

INSTITUTE FOR SECURITY & DEVELOPMENT POLICY

The Threat of Russian Criminal Money: Reassessing EU Anti-Money Laundering Policy

by Walter Kegö and Alexander Georgieff

June 2013

[link to the article](#)

Since the early 1990s, Russian criminal networks have plagued the European Union. The spread of organized crime groups from Russia, following the break-up of the Soviet Union, has brought with it increased violence and the rise of illicit networks. However, these organized crime groups thrive precisely because the Eastern European member states of the EU continue to allow the illicit money from these groups to pass through their financial institutions, this paper says.

Asia

INTERNATIONAL CRISIS GROUP

Afghanistan's Parties in Transition

26 June 2013

[link to the article](#)

This paper builds on earlier Crisis Group reporting on Afghanistan's political parties to provide an overview of their current position and analyse their ability and willingness to shape the transition to the post-Karzai era, after a decade of government efforts to restrict political party functioning. It is based on interviews with political party and other stakeholders in Kabul and four regional centres of Mazar-i-Sharif, Herat, Kandahar and Jalalabad.

THE POLISH INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Regionalism in East Asia: A Bumpy Road to Asian Integration

by Justyna Szczudlik-Tatar

27 June 2013

[link to the article](#)

The shifting global power centre from the West to the East, China's rise, and the US "pivot" to the Asia-Pacific region have all accelerated the integration processes in East Asia. ASEAN is trying to enhance its internal cooperation and extend it to other, non-ASEAN countries. Simultaneously, in Northeast Asia, despite territorial and historical disputes, China, Japan and South Korea are deepening trilateral cooperation. This paper argues that recent initiatives to deepen economic integration in East Asia are in the EU's interest, offering an opportunity for greater region-to-region cooperation.

FRIENDS OF EUROPE

Indonesia matters: The role and ambitions of a rising power

by Shada Islam and Patricia Díaz

14 June 2013

[link to the article](#)

This paper seeks to spotlight Indonesia's achievements in consolidating democracy, improving human rights and managing its economic rise. It also illustrates the vast task ahead as policymakers seek further economic reform, try to remove infrastructure bottlenecks, and preserve the country's religious and cultural diversity in the face of extremist forces. It highlights Indonesia's relations with its key neighbours and its pivotal position within ASEAN. The briefing also sets out an agenda for a stronger EU-Indonesia partnership which would recognise the country as a strategic partner.

Albania

HELLENIC FOUNDATION FOR EUROPEAN & FOREIGN POLICY
Third Briefing Note of Albanian Elections Observatory

19 June 2013

[link to the article](#)

In late June, Albania's Socialist Party won the elections. This briefing analyses the campaign, just as it entered its final phase in a tense political atmosphere. It offers an overview of the political parties' platforms and their respective strategies, while giving special emphasis to their electoral pledges, which are too ambitious to be considered credible. In addition, the paper deals with Albania's EU integration, which is high on the electoral agenda, and the political consensus between Socialists and Democrats that recently led to the adoption of three laws linked to the country's EU membership.

Turkey

ISTITUTO AFFARI INTERNAZIONALI

An Uncertain Road to Peace: Domestic and Regional Challenges in the Turkish-Kurdish Process

by Emanuela Pergolizzi

10 June 2013

[link to the article](#)

After almost three decades of armed struggle, negotiations between the Turkish government and the jailed leader of the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), Abdullah Öcalan, offer a glimmer of hope to end Turkey's most deadly conflict, which has cost up to 40,000 lives until now. This paper argues that there are signs to suggest that the current peace effort has "unprecedented chances of success". However, a Turkish-Kurdish peace depends not only on an agreement between the government and the PKK, but also on Turkey's rise as a mature democracy. The EU, which could play a decisive anchoring role in the country's democratization, has taken a step back, missing its chance of being a facilitator in this long standing conflict.

Syria

ISTITUTO AFFARI INTERNAZIONALI

The Future of Syria and the Regional Arms Race

by Silvia Colombo

12 June 2013

[link to the article](#)

The Syrian conflict remains one of the most troubling foreign policy issues facing the international community, this paper says. While the number of civilian casualties and displaced persons escalates, a renewed diplomatic effort seems to be losing steam, thus projecting a grim outlook onto the future of the country. The paper addresses some of the open questions in the Syrian crisis, namely the weaknesses of the opposition groups, the funding and arming of the opposition, the differences between the so-called moderate and extremist forces within it and the

humanitarian aid provided to the Syrian refugees, focusing on the active engagement of the Arab Gulf countries, mainly Saudi Arabia and Qatar.

The Syrian File. The Role of the Opposition in a Multi-Layered Conflict

by Cinzia Bianco

27 June 2013

[link to the article](#)

Against the backdrop of Iraq's fragmentation and Egypt's derailed revolution, bold steps are clearly needed to prevent Syria from a likewise destiny, far worsened by the level of violence in the country and its role in the region's geopolitics, this paper argues. The degeneration of the crisis into sectarianism and social conflict is an increasingly tangible threat. This paper analyses the anti-Assad front and outlines a post-war plan for national reconciliation framed in the context of the country's own past and experiences from other countries in the region.

STIFTUNG WISSENSCHAFT UND POLITIK

Chemiewaffen in Syrien. Wie sich die Bedrohung verringern lässt

by Oliver Meier

June 2013

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

The Obama administration's decision to supply weapons to the opposition forces in Syria was justified by the regime's alleged recourse to chemical warfare. However, argues the author, neither arm supply nor a no-fly zone would protect opposition forces or civilians against chemical weapons. Apart from direct intervention on the ground, there are other measures that would reduce the threat of chemical weapons being used in Syria.

INTERNATIONAL CRISIS GROUP

Syria's Metastasising Conflicts

27 June 2013

[link to the article](#)

Two years, scores of thousands of dead, a mushrooming regional sectarian war and millions of refugees and internally displaced later, the Syrian war is tying the international community in knots largely of its own making, this paper says. Once confident of swift victory, the opposition's foreign allies shifted to a paradigm dangerously divorced from reality: that military pressure would force the regime to alter its calculus so that it would either negotiate its demise or experience internal cracks leading to its collapse. It is past time to get over false hopes and confront a harsh truth. The options that dominate the policy debate would deepen the crisis, not produce a credible exit from it, the authors say.

Africa

INSTITUT FRANÇAIS DES RELATIONS INTERNATIONALES

France and the Fight against Terrorism in the Sahel. The History of a Difficult Leadership Role

by Tobias Koepf

June 2013

[link to the article](#)

The rise of terrorism and especially the creation of Al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) in 2007 brought the Sahel region into the focus of world politics. This study gives an overview on the development of French policy in the Sahel over recent years. It analyses how the rise of terrorism in the Sahel brought the region back into the focus of French foreign policy, looks at the French response to the threat from AQIM and the difficulties France faces in this context. It shows these difficulties are also reflected in France's efforts to lead an international response to the crisis that set Mali in turmoil in early 2012. Finally, the study scrutinizes the impact of the French intervention.

Afghanistan

INSTITUT DE RELATIONS INTERNATIONALES ET STRATÉGIQUES

Afghanistan : de l'opportunité et des dangers de « dialoguer » avec les talibans (à défaut d'autres options)

by Olivier Guillard, Stéphanie Caux and Vincent Boeswillwald

June 2013

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

The French *Institut des Relations internationales* reviews the context that lead to the controversial establishment of a Taliban representation in Doha, seen as a prelude to peace negotiations. It contrasts these expectations with the persisting violence in Afghanistan and argues for caution, also in view of the outraged reaction by the legitimate Afghan government.

REGARDS CROISÉS

STIFTUNG WISSENSCHAFT UND POLITIK

Wirtschaftskrise und politischer Wandel in Spanien

by Susanne Grätius

June 2013

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

Susanne Grätius sees the financial crisis as the opportunity for a deep *Wandel* in the Spanish political system, marking the end of the two-party system with a tacit pro-European consensus that has accompanied the transition to democracy and prevailed since then. Besides providing an opportunity for reform, the crisis opens spaces for political radicalism by those who are not represented by the current party system. The author notes that the outcome will depend largely on Brussels and Berlin, seen by public opinion as responsible for the current situation.