



Council of the European Union
General Secretariat

THINK TANK REVIEW

Council Library

SEPTEMBER 2021
ISSUE 91



This Think Tank Review* covers articles and reports published in June, July and August relating to different political and policy topics.

Reports over the past three months detail the repercussions of successive Covid-19 waves over Europe, especially focusing on the capability of member states to recover. This edition sees think tanks surveying a union composed of individual countries, each deciding whether to restrict or reopen.

In analysing ongoing consequences of Covid-19 outbreaks and their handling, the varied briefs study:

- the European Union's success and shortcomings in crisis management;
- worldwide commodity shortages, particularly concerning vaccine supply and demand;
- post-pandemic recovery in both economic and industrial contexts;
- maintaining social cohesion across barred physical distances;
- tumultuous labour markets and the possible methods to supplement lost workers;
- the stark divide between regions opting to reopen versus those tightening restrictions;
- regional-specific Covid-19 situations, from Latin America to Russia.

EU POLICY AREAS

The collection of briefs scrutinize the goals of the **Slovenian Council presidency**, shining a spotlight on themes of **resiliency** and **adaptation**. These principles of European solidarity are also enshrined in the **Next Generation EU** initiative, evaluated in publications as an opportunity to deepen integration. Reports note the rising prevalence of **digital sovereignty** in conversations surrounding European political priorities. **Food security** and a resulting lack of availability were exacerbated by the continuing pandemic, state the briefs. Some policy analyses track the progress of the **EU Green New Deal** and the transition towards **sustainable energy**. Many think tank publications focus on **economics**, especially the effects of Covid-19 on **transparency**, **regulation mechanisms** and **financial policy**.

Social policy reports investigate adapted methods of **telework**, including the disadvantages these modes may present to certain minority groups. Authors additionally review **healthcare benefits** under stress from unrelenting use. Environmental matters remain at the forefront of think tank interests, with publications covering issues from **costs associated with 'green' transitions** to accommodating the European Commission's **'Fit-for-55'** proposal. **Climate security** and **carbon emissions regulation** additionally make frequent appearances in report theses.

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Papers take special notice of the **EU Migration Pact**, a Commission proposal aimed at increasing **member state solidarity** and extending **regulatory powers to regional governments**. **Border security** and **implementation of mobility laws** became more necessary in light of the continuing pandemic and subsequent travel bans, posit several publications. **Digitisation**, with its potential to serve society in defence and public service, joins **sustainable energy** in the limelight of transport and telecommunications policy briefs.

Foreign affairs analyses align with the priorities of the Slovenian Council presidency, notably covering themes of bolstering **stability**, preserving **European security**, and strengthening **strategic autonomy**. Areas of interest covered by publications include **NATO's developing 2030 strategy**, **Chinese geopolitics**, **EU strategic plans** regarding defence structures and external threats, and **artificial intelligence** approaches. Regional headlines encompass **Indian** involvement in the South Asian territories, **Belarus's** political repercussions on the Eastern European region, the political status of the **Western Balkans**, and complicated negotiations concerning **UK-EU** transport.

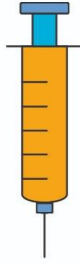
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COVID-19: EU coordination for safe and effective vaccination



COVID -19

INSTITUTE FOR GOVERNMENT

Tackling Covid-19 over the long term: how to strengthen international efforts to end the pandemic

by Tom Sasse [@tom_sasse](#)

Covid-19 has thrown the world into turmoil. In some places vaccines are beginning to turn the tide, but the global path out of the crisis will not be straightforward. This paper brings together leading international scientists and policy makers to discuss how the pandemic could develop and the policies needed to end it. (26 p.)

MIGRATION POLICY INSTITUTE

Future scenarios for global mobility in the shadow of pandemic

by Meghan Benton [@meghan_benton](#)

This report explores possible scenarios for what international mobility could look like in two to three years as an exercise to help national governments and international organizations think through the potential impacts of different policy choices and approaches to pandemic management. (37 p.)

MIGRATION POLICY INSTITUTE

Solidarity in isolation? Social cohesion at a time of physical distance

by Natalia Banulescu-Bogdan [@nataliabbogdan](#) et al.

In addition to its widespread public-health and economic impacts, the COVID-19 pandemic has challenged social cohesion in

many countries by forcing changes in how people interact. This report explores ways to assess the pandemic's effects on social capital and social infrastructure in Europe and North America. (22 p.)

MIGRATION POLICY INSTITUTE

Taking the long view: options for inclusive post-pandemic labor markets

by Liam Patuzzi [@LiamPatuzzi](#)

This report explores how the pandemic has affected immigrant workers thus far and how labour market trends such as automation, remote work, and the growth of the platform economy may affect migrant integration as European economies begin to recover. It also presents policy ideas and recommendations for crafting inclusive pandemic recovery strategies. (32 p.)

ULKOPOLIITTINEN INSTITUUTTI (FINNISH INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS)

Russia's corona diplomacy and geoeconomic competition: a Sputnik moment?

by Sinikukka Saari [@sinikukka](#)

This paper sheds light on the basic tenets of Russia's science, technology and innovation system. It also tracks how Russia has attempted to take advantage of the global corona crisis in its foreign policy. What kind of a role has Sputnik V played in it and how effective a foreign policy tool has Sputnik V been so far? (8 p.)

TÆNKETANKEN EUROPA

Den europæiske improvisator

In this report, the think tank makes a preliminary statement on the EU's corona crisis management. The conclusion is that, despite the chaotic start, the EU improvised a number of measures that have contributed to the EU's overall economic recovery. (DA - 60 p.)

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RESEARCH
INSTITUTE**A Lack of Perceived Benefits and a Gap in Knowledge Distinguish the Vaccine Hesitant from Vaccine Accepting during the COVID-19 Pandemic***by Deirdre Robertson et al.*

Many citizens remain hesitant to receive any of the numerous Covid-19 vaccines, primarily from a lack of knowledge regarding the composition and the actual gains. After conducting research into vaccine risk assessment, the study's authors propose information campaigns to instil confidence in the general populace and increase vaccination rates. (23 p.)

TERRA NOVA

L'Europe sortira-t-elle renforcée politiquement de la pandémie ?*by Anne Bucher et al.*

The authors describe a balancing act between European Union member states' attitudes and actions towards the Covid-19 pandemic, and the overarching EU strategy to handle vaccines equitably. Each wave was fraught with obstacles, from lack of resources to unwillingness to cooperate. The United States and the United Kingdom's roles during the various phases of the pandemic figure into the development of the EU's vaccination rollout, according to the brief. (FR – 32 p.)

TERRA NOVA

Après la pandémie : trop tôt pour se réjouir*by Matt Browne*  [@GlobalProgresMB](#)

As far as the world has come in combatting the Covid-19 pandemic, much work still remains. This brief discusses how the worldwide crisis illuminated 'progressive' schools of thought regarding cooperation between the world's states, particularly G7 members. However, states the author, significant hurdles based on difference of financial perspective of these various actors towards post-pandemic reconstruction (optimism and pessimism) risk impeding progress. (FR – 4 p.)

HANNS-SEIDEL-STIFTUNG (HANNS SEIDEL
FOUNDATION)**Freiheitsgrundrechte in Zeiten von Corona***by Sarah Schmid et al.*

In March 2021, a majority of citizens supported the measures to combat the pandemic or even called for a more restrictive course. At the same time, however, it is also true that the number of critics is increasing and the debate is becoming ever more sharp and emotional. The Hanns Seidel Foundation, makes with this contribution a differentiated analysis of fundamental freedoms in times of Corona. (DE – 54 p.)

DEUTSCHES INSTITUT FÜR
ENTWICKLUNGSPOLITIK (GERMAN
DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE)**Global access to COVID-19 vaccines challenges in production, affordability, distribution and utilisation***by Andreas Stamm et al.*

The global COVID-19 vaccination process calls for decisive, coordinated and forward-looking action. This paper proposes short- and long-term actions and emphasises that activities should not only focus on short-term management, but on building long-term structures to prepare for future pandemics. (23 p.)

ZENTRUM FÜR EUROPÄISCHE
WIRTSCHAFTSFORSCHUNG (CENTRE FOR
EUROPEAN ECONOMIC RESEARCH)**An integrated data framework for policy guidance in times of dynamic economic shocks***by Julian Oliver Dörr et al.*

This paper focuses in particular on assessing the early effects of the pandemic, using highly dynamic and largescale data from corporate websites. Most notably, it shows that textual references to the coronavirus pandemic published on a large sample of company websites and state-of-the-art text analysis methods allow to capture the heterogeneity of the crisis' effects at a very

early stage and entail a leading indication on later movements in firm credit ratings. (33 p.)

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

Populism and COVID-19: how populist governments (mis)handle the pandemic

by Michael Bayerlein et al.

Using the pandemic shock in the form of the COVID-19 crises, this paper answers the question of how populist governments handle the pandemic. (47 p.)

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

**World economy summer 2021: post-corona-boom underway
Weltwirtschaft im Sommer 2021: auf dem Weg in den Post-Corona-Boom**

by Klaus-Jürgen Gern et al.

The tensions in the global economic fabric reflect not least in sharp price increases for raw materials, intermediate goods and transportation services, which have already contributed to a noticeable rise in consumer prices. Continued highly expansionary monetary policy and considerable fiscal policy stimulus, notably in the United States but also in the euro zone, are fueling economic activity this year and next according to this economic outlook. (EN – 15 p. / DE – 30 p.)

**ÖSTERREICHISCHES INSTITUT FÜR
WIRTSCHAFTSFORSCHUNG (AUSTRIAN
INSTITUTE OF ECONOMIC RESEARCH)**

Mittel-, Ost- und Südosteuropa auf dem Weg der Erholung von der COVID-19-Krise

by Vasily Astrov et al.

According to this article Central, Eastern and South-eastern Europe are on the road to recovery from the COVID-19 crisis (DE - 14 p.)

**WISSENSCHAFTSZENTRUM BERLIN FÜR
SOZIALFORSCHUNG (SOCIAL SCIENCE
RESEARCH CENTER BERLIN)**

**Fridays for Future in der Corona-Krise:
welche Mobilisierungskraft haben Online-
Proteste?**

by Sophia Hunger  [@SophiaHunger](https://twitter.com/SophiaHunger) et al.

The Corona crisis confronted Fridays For Future (FFF) – like many other social movements – with unforeseeable and drastic restrictions. This descriptive analysis shows regional variances in protest intensity and innovations in protest forms. The conclusion in general, the results do not indicate a significant expansion of the mobilization: FFF could mobilize particularly well in urban, “green-voting” areas with a highly educated population and strong female representation in the population and politics. (DE - 23 p.)

**CENTRE FOR EUROPEAN POLICY
STUDIES (CEPS)**

Towards a resilient and sustainable post-pandemic recovery (executive summary)

by Andrea Renda  [@profAndreaRenda](https://twitter.com/profAndreaRenda) et al.

In light of the difficulties of post-COVID recovery, CEPS compiled a multi-stakeholder taskforce to explore policy recommendations for a new industrial strategy that would enable a sustainable and resilient recovery. This extensive report presents both general recommendations for a policy strategy and recommendations for each of the eight working groups on issues ranging from the Green Deal to capital markets. (99p.)

BRUEGEL

A Global Deal for Our Pandemic Age

by Tharman Shanmugaratnam et al.

The G20's High Level Independent Panel was approached in early 2021 to propose solutions on how finance can be reorganised in a systematic and sustainable way to reduce the world's vulnerability to future pandemics. This report sets out the findings and urges immediate action on pandemic preparedness to avoid experiencing similarly grave damages as during the COVID-19 pandemic. (92 p.)

PETERSON INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL ECONOMICS

How COVID-19 vaccine supply chains emerged in the midst of a pandemic

by Chad P. Bown  [@ChadBown](#) et al.

Many months after COVID-19 vaccines were first authorized for public use, still limited supplies could only partially reduce the devastating loss of life and economic costs caused by the pandemic. The working paper provides an analytical framework describing the vaccine value chain as well as creates a new database that maps the vaccines to the product- and location-specific manufacturing supply chains that emerged in 2020 and 2021. It catalogues major pandemic policy initiatives and in the final section identifies further questions for researchers and policymakers. (60 p.)

PETERSON INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL ECONOMICS

How COVID-19 Medical Supply Shortages Led to Extraordinary Trade and Industrial Policy

by Chad P. Bown  [@ChadBown](#)

Early in the COVID-19 pandemic, a global shortage of hospital gowns, gloves, surgical masks, and respirators caused policymakers around the world to panic. The paper examines the developments in international trade in this personal protective equipment (PPE) during the crisis, with a focus on China, the EU and the US. It also explores some government actions, such as US trade war tariffs and the emergence of US industrial policy to build out its domestic PPE supply chain, as well as potential lessons for future pandemic preparedness and international policy cooperation. (30 p.)

PETERSON INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL ECONOMICS

The Political Economy of Pandemic Preparedness and Effectiveness

by Cullen S. Hendrix

The success of OECD countries in controlling the COVID-19 pandemic has varied greatly. Explanations for the

differences fall into four broad categories: political/economic, cultural/social, demographic/geographic, and policy-oriented. The paper assesses the relevant political economy variables concluding that key factors appear to have been interdictability (the ability to tightly control borders and effectively restrict or monitor entrants at a limited number of entry ports), the early adoption of stronger international travel restrictions, and a female head of government. (23 p.)

ISTITUTO AFFARI INTERNAZIONALI

Responsible to protect: The impact of covid-19 on food security and nutrition and the role of the G20

by Daniele Fattibene

The pandemic has exposed the most vulnerable groups to several forms of food insecurity. The G20 plays a crucial role in supporting the global fight against hunger and malnutrition and can provide collective and coordinated leadership to tackle food crises. This study addresses the costs of the pandemic and offers key elements and policy proposals. (28 p.)

REAL INSTITUTO ELCANO

América Latina post COVID-19: riesgos y oportunidades del nuevo ciclo económico

by Adrián Blanco Estévez  [@adrianblanco78](#)

This paper analyses the post-pandemic economic outlook for Latin America. The factors that drove the Latin American economy into crisis during covid-19 have recovered but have left structural damage that threatens the region's growth potential. The post-pandemic period also offers opportunities for the region's growth, such as a new commodity cycle, the rise of entrepreneurship and the transition to a green economy. (ES – 10 p.)

BARCELONA CENTRE FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Geopolítica de la salud: vacunas, gobernanza y cooperación

by Eduard Soler i Lecha [@solerlecha](#) (ed.)

Both the pandemic and the vaccine roll-out highlight global health-related challenges, introducing new dimensions to the debate and broadening the range of relevant actors. When discussing the geopolitics of the pandemic or the vaccine, the focus is often on their competitive or conflictual nature. This volume explores this dimension, while at the same time positing the health field as a fertile ground for the development of a cooperative, citizen-centred geopolitics. (ES – 94 p.)

FUNDACIÓN DE ESTUDIOS DE ECONOMÍA APLICADA

Aspectos económicos de la crisis del Covid-19: Boletín de seguimiento no. 11

by Florentino Felgueroso et al. (eds)

This Covid crisis monitoring bulletin presents a list of indicators to interpret the consequences of the pandemic on the economy. It also analyses and evaluates the main economic measures that have been taken in the recent weeks, and offers an analysis of some aspects of the recent evolution of the labour market. (ES – 65 p.)

EUROPEAN INSTITUTE OF THE MEDITERRANEAN / EURO- MEDITERRANEAN STUDY COMMISSION

Thriving on uncertainty: covid-19-related opportunities for terrorist groups

by Abdelhak Bassou et al. (eds)

The authors find the pandemic has impacted the operational and ideological frameworks of terrorist groups, where covid-19 was interpreted as an opportunity to spread extremist propaganda and ideology. They propose a wide range of recommendations to mitigate the risks of terrorist activities and, in the long term, the core factors that encourage the spread of terrorist violence. (86 p.)

EURO-MEDITERRANEAN STUDY COMMISSION

Global value chains in the aftermath of covid-19 opportunities to increase Euro-Mediterranean integration

by Giorgia Giovannetti et al.

The covid-19 pandemic has hit the whole world, with most countries experiencing severe contractions in gross domestic product (GDP). Preliminary evidence does not suggest drastic changes in the globalisation process, but some shifts may occur in terms of geopolitical balances, based on partners' diversification and the regional shortening of global value chains (GVCs). This paper discusses how such a scenario might be of crucial importance for countries in the Mediterranean area. (8 p.)

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

Immunity Passports in the context of COVID-19: Technological Solutions, Regulatory Considerations and Ethical Challenges

Διαβατήρια Ανοσίας στο πλαίσιο του COVID-19 : Τεχνολογικές λύσεις, Νομικά ερωτήματα και Ηθικές προκλήσεις

by Mihalīs Kritikos

The current large-scale deployment of COVID-19 certificates does not come without scientific, legal, and ethical challenges. The current analysis sheds light on the main tenets of the framework and highlights the positions and initiatives of the main stakeholders. It also examines the major ethical and legal questions associated with the release of the certificate and makes a series of recommendations that could contribute to the efficient handling of some of these challenges so as to ensure a socially-responsible and effective use of this new EU instrument. (EN – 9 p. / EL – 9 p.)



CENTAR ZA EVROPSKE POLITIKE (EUROPEAN POLICY CENTRE)

The Slovenian presidency of Council of the EU: towards the post-pandemic Europe

by Strahinja Subotić [@mr_Subotic](#) et al.

This paper aims to uncover what lies behind the motto “Together. Resilient. Europe”, while analysing how the Slovenian presidency will shape the EU, as well as the enlargement policy, in the second half of 2021. (4 p.)

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

COVID-19: the EU legislative process proves resilient and adaptable, but democracy has suffered

by Selma Bendjaballah et al.

This paper looks at the long-term trends in EU legislative affairs and the consequences of the pandemic on the working methods of EU institutions. More specifically, it analyses the resilience and adaptation of the legislative process in the COVID-19 crisis as well as whether it still meets the same democratic standards as before. (15 p.)

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

Next Generation EU: solidarity, opportunity, and confidence

by Erik Jones

The purpose of this note is to take stock of the European Union’s recovery and resilience plan – called ‘Next Generation EU’ – in light of developments since it was agreed in July 2020. The question is whether that agreement is as significant in hindsight as it appeared to be when it was made. (14 p.)

CORPORATE EUROPE OBSERVATORY

The lobby network: Big Tech's web of influence in the EU

by Max Bank [@max_bank](#) et al.

As Big Tech’s market power grew, so did its political clout. Now, as the EU tries to rein in the most problematic aspects of Big Tech – from disinformation, targeted advertising to unfair competition practices – the digital giants are lobbying hard to shape new regulations. (48 p.)

INSTITUT FRANÇAIS DES RELATIONS INTERNATIONALES

The Changing Landscape of European Cloud Computing: Gaia-X, the French National Strategy, and EU Plans

by Alice Pannier [@AlicePannier](#)

The global volume of data will be multiplied by five by 2025. Today, non-European service providers host 80% of European data. The author analyses the role of the cloud technologies. Finally, the question is raised: would edge computing be an opportunity for Europe? (9 p.)

GERMAN COUNCIL ON FOREIGN RELATIONS (DGAP)

Building European Resilience and Capacity to Act: Lessons for 2030

by Roderick Parkes et al.

How can the EU build up and sustain its capacity to act in the face of the major disruptive changes that are likely to occur in this decade? This report presents multiple scenarios on each of four global phenomena and suggests that a resilient EU is one that avoids thinking in silos and trajectories and carefully integrates competencies and powers across different policy areas. (51 p.)

POLSKI INSTYTUT SPRAW MIĘDZYNARODOWYCH (THE POLISH INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS)

A Backup Partnership: The Significance of Franco-Italian Relations for the EU and NATO

by Łukasz Maślanka [@lukasz_maslanka](#)

Ideological disputes, different approaches to the migration-management crisis and rivalry in the Mediterranean have hampered the development of Franco-Italian relations in recent years. However, good relations between Mario Draghi and Emmanuel Macron create the ground for an rapprochement. In this context the policy paper presents possible obstacles to this cooperation as well as recommendations on avoiding potential conflicts of interests. (5 p.)

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT THINK TANK

'Future proofing' EU policies

by Meenaskshi Fernandes et al.

Governments and policymakers around the world are increasingly stress testing policies to get 'ahead of the curve' and to be better equipped in response to plausible futures that may include disruptive events. This briefing looks at how the use of stress testing could add value at all stages of the EU legislative cycle and complement existing regulatory policy tools such as ex-ante assessment and ex-post evaluation. It could be applied as an anticipatory governance tool across all policy areas to identify

weaknesses and opportunities to reinforce the legislative framework. (8 p.)

LSE IDEAS

Authoritarian-Protectionism-in-Central-Eastern-and-South-Eastern-Europe : diversity, commonality and resistance

by Luke Cooper [@lukecooper100](#)

This report seeks to provide a wider regional contextualisation through the examination of Hungary and Poland in tandem with four other case studies in the region: Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Romania and Slovakia. The paper argues that the recent histories of these states provide a vantage point for reflection on the broader tendencies driving democratic decay globally. As the populaces of these states have shown tremendous civic energy in their willingness to resist authoritarianism, often in very large numbers, these case studies also point to the need to re-frame how this topic is discussed in the European public sphere. (34 p.)

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

Topics: Czech 2022 Presidency to the Council of the EU

by Vít Havelka [@Havelka_Vit](#)

This policy paper provides an overview of the current stage of preparations for the Czech Presidency and specifically elaborates on what topics the Czech Republic could choose as its priorities. (9 p.)



AGRICULTURE

INSTITUTE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

[An agroecological Europe by 2050: what impact on land use, trade and global food security?](#)

by Michele Schiavo et al.

This study presents the key results of a research that analyses the implications of an ambitious agroecological transition across Europe, following the TYFA scenario. Published in 2018, what it proposes by 2050 is fully aligned with the objectives that the European Farm to Fork and Biodiversity strategies aim to achieve by 2030, in particular regarding the decrease in pesticides, nitrogen, and antibiotics on the supply side, and the transition towards more plant-based diets on the demand side. (54 p.)

COMPETITIVENESS (INTERNAL MARKET, INDUSTRY, RESEARCH AND SPACE)

FONDATION POUR LA RECHERCHE STRATEGIQUE

[The European Defence Fund And Space: Added Value And Priorities](#)

by Paul Weissenberg et al.

Space programs and their assets hold significant strategic potential for a European Union increasingly invested in maintaining

external sovereignty. The authors suggest blending the resources of both research and defence agencies to more fully exploit the security capabilities of the combined European space sector. (18 p.)

CENTRE FOR STRATEGIC AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

[How Does Facial Recognition Work?](#)

by William Crumpler et al.

As an increasing number of organizations begin to use facial recognition technologies (FRTs), concerns have mounted over the potential risks the technology may pose to privacy and other civil liberties. This paper provides an examination of how the technology works and how to understand questions about its performance and operation. (16 p.)

KONRAD ADENAUER STIFTUNG (KAS)

[Die neue europäische Industriestrategie](#)

by Oliver Morwinsky et al.

The Commission's updated European industrial strategy draws lessons from the Covid 19 pandemic and aims to enable the European industry to play a leading role in the digital and green transition of the economy. As this analysis argues, the strategy should reflect Europe's values and social market economy traditions by improving the general opportunities for industries across the board, and confine itself mainly to correcting market failures. (DE – 12 p.)

TÆNKETANKEN EUROPA

[Europe's digital future: perspectives from Northern Europe](#)

by Jan Høst Schmidt et al.

The concept of 'digital sovereignty' has emerged as a prominent new theme in European digital policy, and is one which may have important implications for the future of the EU and its Member States. This report seeks to highlight the perspectives of some of Europe's 'digital frontrunner' states. (48 p.)

ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

INSTITUT DER DEUTSCHEN WIRTSCHAFT
KÖLN (GERMAN ECONOMIC INSTITUTE)

Ökologisch nachhaltig oder nicht? Die Einführung der EU taxonomy for sustainable activities : ein verbindliches Klassifikationssystem nachhaltiger Wirtschaftsaktivitäten in der EU

by Peter Friedrich et al.

This study sheds light on the implications of the EU taxonomy for financial market participants and its potential to strengthen transparency and comparability of information for companies and investors. The alignment with the EU taxonomy should help companies to access new sources of sustainable finance on capital markets and to close the investment gap to achieve international climate targets. By integrating the environmental costs and long-term risks of climate change associated with certain economic activities into financial instruments, the EU taxonomy provides the potential to better link creditors and debtors, to improve the functioning and allocative efficiency of capital markets, and to leverage finance for sustainable investments. (DE – 28 p.)

CORPORATE EUROPE OBSERVATORY

Conquering EU courts? Big business lobbies in secret for new legal privileges in the EU

The EC is currently preparing a proposal to protect cross-border investments in the EU, to be published in autumn 2021. There are worrying signs that the new proposal could include vast new legal privileges for corporations – exactly what large banks, law firms and big business lobby groups have been pushing for. As a result, a new EU court exclusively for corporations could make European governments pay huge sums of money to big business as compensation for regulations brought in to protect workers, consumers, and the environment. The serious financial risk such a court would create, of having to pay significant damages, could ultimately put governments off regulating in the public interest. (13 p.)

SAFE - SUSTAINABLE ARCHITECTURE FOR FINANCE IN EUROPE

The role of disclosure in green finance

by Tobias H. Troeger  [@TobiasTroeger](#) et al.

The authors study the design features of disclosure regulations that seek to trigger the green transition of the global economy and ask whether such regulatory interventions are likely to bring about sufficient market discipline to achieve socially optimal climate targets. (64 p.)

ZENTRUM FÜR EUROPÄISCHE WIRTSCHAFTSFORSCHUNG (CENTRE FOR EUROPEAN ECONOMIC RESEARCH)

The future of the European fiscal union: survey results from members of national parliaments in France, Italy and Germany

by Sebastian Blesse et al.

Using data from a unique survey of members of parliaments in France, Germany and Italy in 2018, this paper estimates the effects of three dimensions on EU and euro area fiscal reform preferences: nationality, political ideology, and populism. (32 p.)

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

Fiscal policy and growth forecasts in the EU: are official forecasters still misestimating fiscal multipliers?

by David Cronin et al.

This paper finds that fiscal multiplier estimates in the EU have been over-estimated in the post euro area recession period, whereas such estimates were found to have been under-estimated during 2010-2011 period. Forecasters are therefore still not capturing accurately the impact of fiscal policy on output growth. (10 p.)

CENTRE FOR EUROPEAN POLICY STUDIES (CEPS)

Basel III Finalisation

by Willem Pieter De Groen et al.

Developed as a response to the inadequacies of financial regulation discovered during the financial crisis, the Basel III standards aim to improve the stability of the system by determining the minimum amount of capital that banks have to hold for their assets. This study explores the impact that the EU's implementation of the latest reforms of Basel III could have on European banks and the real economy. (61 p.)

HERTIE SCHOOL / JACQUES DELORS

Check yourself before you wreck yourself

by Thu Nguyen et al.

Strengthening the EU's capacity to act in economic policymaking has become a fashionable talking point on the European policy agenda, but there is little debate about the institutional preconditions to be able to live up to these ambitions. In this policy brief, the authors argue that the combination of grand policy ambition and institutional neglect constitutes a dangerous mix. Without new financial tools and decision-making procedures, the agenda is bound to disappoint (5 p.)

HERTIE SCHOOL / JACQUES DELORS

Don't change horses in midstream – How to make NGEU bonds the euro area's safe asset

by Sebastian Mack  [@SebastianMack](https://twitter.com/SebastianMack)

The bonds financing EU's recovery remain short of being the much-hoped-for safe asset of EU monetary union (EMU). However, the author of this policy paper argues that it can change with the right reforms. To earn safe asset status, the volume of EU debt should increase, EU borrowing made permanent, and the ECB treat supranational EU bonds in a more favourable manner. If NextGenerationEU proves successful, member states should seize the opportunity to create the long-awaited safe asset and put EU borrowing on a permanent footing before debt is repaid as of 2028 (19 p.)

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT THINK TANK

Recovery and Resilience Dialogue with the European Commission 1 September 2021

by Cristina Dias et al.

This briefing reports on the third Recovery and Resilience Dialogue under the Recovery and Resilience Facility Regulation. It covers the state of play of the Recovery and Resilience plans and of the Recovery and Resilience Facility; the statistical recording of the Recovery and Resilience Facility and some data on the current economic situation and estimates on the impact of the Facility. (18 p.)

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT THINK TANK

Euro Area fiscal policies and capacity in post-pandemic times

by Paul De Grauwe

The Covid-19 pandemic has created huge challenges for policymakers in the whole world. In the euro area, these challenges have dimensions that are peculiar to the fact that the euro area is a monetary union with one monetary authority and nineteen separate budgetary authorities. In this policy brief, the author provides some answers to two questions: Which policy mix (national /supranational) supports smooth recovery, sustainability of public finances and resilience of the euro area? Which EMU governance reforms should be prioritised so as to improve the functioning of the euro area? (31 p.)

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT THINK TANK

The Recovery and Resilience Plans: governance at national level

by Katja Komazec et al.

Based on the Commission assessments of national Recovery and Resilience Plans, this paper provides a summary view of two specific dimensions of such analysis - the governance and control structures set up at national level for implementation of the national plans. This paper presents a high level summary analysis of some related elements of the national plans, as currently assessed by the Commission. It also refers

to the relevant legal framework in the Recovery and Resilience Facility Regulation and summarises in an annex the relevant references in the Commission documents. (31 p.)

MARTENS CENTRE

Reforming the European Stability Mechanism: Too Much but Never Enough | Martens Centre

by Anna Peychev

The amended European Stability Mechanism (ESM) Treaty institutes long-awaited reforms to the EU's crisis management and financial-aid mechanism. This paper finds that the ESM Reform Treaty not only fails to address the outstanding issues in the original ESM framework, but exacerbates the status quo by further empowering the Mechanism outside the legal framework of the EU treaties. The author points to a compromise solution wherein the ESM becomes its own independent technocratic institution, equally removed from the political influence of governments and the reach of the Commission. (68 p.)

A PATH FOR EUROPE (PFEU)

Out of the Shadows: Embracing RegTech solutions in the NBFi sector

by Niamh Saunders

The Shadow Banking sector in the EU has grown significantly over the past two decades, establishing itself as a concern for regulators following the global financial crisis. This policy paper evaluates the potential risks the sector presents, as well as the complexities for regulators in adequately addressing these risks. In aid of mitigating a number of these issues, the paper suggests the adoption of RegTech solutions. (25 p.)

ZENTRUM FÜR EUROPÄISCHE WIRTSCHAFTSFORSCHUNG (CENTRE FOR EUROPEAN ECONOMIC RESEARCH)

Dispelling the shadow of fiscal dominance?: Fiscal and monetary announcement effects for euro area sovereign spreads in the Corona pandemic

by Annika Havlik et al.

This analysis addresses the question on the relative importance of fiscal and monetary policy for euro area government bond spreads through an event-analytical study. It identifies important announcements with a focus on the pandemic crisis measures and study their effects on the sovereign risk spreads in the euro area. (37 p.)

EDUCATION / YOUTH / CULTURE / SPORT

TERRA NOVA

Éducation et justice spatiale : des vérités qui dérangent

by Jacques Lévy

The author challenges the oft-held notion that there exists a link between the location of a student (urban vs. rural) and the likelihood of success in school, particularly in regards to standardized university entrance tests. The brief, using France as a case study, suggests instead that the system itself is at fault, with particular regions lacking the proper resources to train students and teachers alike, contributing to apparent discrepancies in scores. (12 p.)

CENTER FOR POLICY STUDIES

Comparative overview of the digital preparedness of education systems in selected CEE countries

by Nina Begicevic Redep

This thematic comparative study is focused on assessing the actual digital preparedness of the educational systems and the institutional conditions of further development in the CEE countries. In preparing this study, analysis of policies, programmes and school evaluation reports

were done as well as analysis and interpretation of various statistical data sets and available data on student achievement. (51 p.)

INSTITUT DE RELATIONS INTERNATIONALES ET STRATÉGIQUES

Sport diplomacy: a literature review of scholarly and policy sources

Sport is increasingly recognised as an effective diplomacy tool. This literature review collates and analyses existing sport diplomacy studies and practices to provide a theoretical foundation for the topic, with a specific focus on the policy domain. (18 p.)

EMPLOYMENT / SOCIAL POLICY / HEALTH AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

THE GERMAN MARSHALL FUND OF THE UNITED STATES

How Gen Z Can Give a New Impetus to the Weimar Triangle

by Monika Bickaускаite  [@M_Bickaускаite](#) et al.

The Weimar Triangle was founded in 1991 as an informal bond between France, Germany, and Poland, with the goal of bolstering relations between the three members post-Cold War. However, the youths comprising Generation Z hold opinions and values vastly different than their predecessors; the policy brief details rising scepticism towards the United States and European neighbours that has fostered a climate of mistrust among an increasingly influential population. The authors propose a series of education and diplomacy reforms to refresh the degrading 'triangle'. (11 p.)

HANNS-SEIDEL-STIFTUNG (HANNS SEIDEL FOUNDATION)

Was tun wir gegen Judenfeindlichkeit? EU-Strategien gegen Antisemitismus

by Katharina von Schnurbein  [@kschnurbein](#)

The EU Commission will present the first EU strategy to combat antisemitism and to promote Jewish life in 2021. According to the

author, the fight against antisemitism begins with the recognition of all forms of contemporary antisemitism and must include all relevant policy areas. (DE – 8 p.)

FONDATION ROBERT SCHUMAN

Covid-19 Crisis and European Mobility: What lessons have been learnt? And what of the future?

by Nicolas Blain

The author examines what initial conclusions can be drawn from the seismic event that the pandemic has caused for the mobility of European citizens, and what new positive prospects are opening up for the various mobility sectors, all of which are facing a before and after Covid-19. (8 p.)

LUXEMBOURG INSTITUTE OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC RESEARCH

Unemployment and working hours of women and men during the pandemic

by Jelena Todorovic et al.

This article analyses the "shecession" phenomenon based on international and European data. It indicates that the probability of women's employment conditions to be impacted negatively by the pandemic were higher. It also includes research on measures like furloughing, short time working, and flexible working, that temper these effects. (8 p.)

BRUEGEL

Blending the physical and virtual: a hybrid model for the future of work

by Monika Grzegorzczak  [@5mgrzegorzczak](#) et al.

The pandemic has shown that many workers can efficiently work remotely, with benefits for wellbeing and even productivity. This policy contribution sees an opportunity for European trade unions and business federations to build on these lessons: By initiating an EU dialogue for a new Framework Agreement on Hybrid Work they could set out conditions for increased teleworking within the EU single market. (22 p.)

KONRAD ADENAUER STIFTUNG (KAS)

Grundsätze für ein soziales Europa

by Oliver Morwinsky et al.

This analysis takes a critical look at the Commission's proposal for a directive on adequate minimum wages. It argues that by defining an adequate minimum wage level the Commission threatens to overstep its competences. According to the authors the directive should rather focus on strengthening collective bargaining, give more room for deviations, and push for a strengthening of the education sector in the Member States. (DE – 9 p.)

FRIENDS OF EUROPE

EU health systems post-pandemic: delivering care to patients at the right place and time

by Nathalie Furrer  [@NathalieFurrer](#) (ed.)

Covid-19 highlighted the urgency of connecting different parts of health and social care systems. This report breaks down three recommendations into executable actions at EU, national and local levels to support the transformation and modernisation of EU healthcare: make the patient the point of care, promote integrated care pathways through community and home-based care, and make the architecture of healthcare digital by default to support integrated care. (28 p.)

FUNDACIÓN DE ESTUDIOS DE ECONOMÍA APLICADA

The effect of long-term care (LTC) benefits on healthcare use

by Manuel Serrano-Alarcón et al.

The healthcare systems of most European countries are currently operating under extreme levels of pressure. The implementation of a good system of Long-Term Care (LTC) could reduce this pressure if it promotes preventative habits and treatment adherence, or reduces age-related risks. This study suggest that allocating resources to LTC might increase the welfare of LTC beneficiaries and help to contain the increasing costs of healthcare. (54 p.)

EUROPEAN TRADE UNION INSTITUTE

(Post)-pandemic employment dynamics in a comparative perspective

by Stefan Jestl et al.

This policy brief explores potential employment dynamics across European industries by drawing on past sectoral trends and the latest macroeconomic forecast results up to 2026, taken from the IMF and the European Commission. It first summarises the employment effects of the global financial and economic crisis in 2009 and the aftermath. Then, the employment effects of the Covid-19 crisis in 2020 are compared with the financial crisis and the recovery period until 2019 by industry and social group. The preliminary results for the recovery paths after the pandemic are also discussed and the last section concludes with policy recommendations. (11 p.)

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

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

Green concerns and salience of environmental issues in Eastern Europe

by Chloé Le Coq et al.

This brief discusses the climate change risk perceptions across Europe. The authors show that people in Eastern Europe are, on average, less concerned about climate change than those in Western Europe. (7 p.)

TERRA NOVA

Le climat contre le capitalisme ?

by Jean Pisani-Ferry  [@pisaniferry](#)

This policy analysis acknowledges the inherent costs, financial and moral, of transitioning towards a 'green' economy. While demands for a climate-centred global revamp of institutions and corporations at all levels, the implications and actual outcomes are more uncertain; thus, this brief seeks to explain the likely scenarios to alleviate citizens' concerns, rather than amplify them. (FR – 4 p.)

EUROPEAN POLICY CENTRE

Is the EU's building renovation wave 'fit for 55'?

by Thijs Vandenbussche

A series of European Commission proposals called 'Fit for 55' is set on slashing EU net emissions by 55%. The carbon-dependent building sector will be among the most affected by these green initiatives, particularly in conjunction with the endeavours to update the 'eco-efficiency' of existing structures. This brief seeks to reconcile the potential of these plans with the actual bylaws, suggesting a restructure to the governing system and its rules to accommodate the 'Fit for 55'. (4 p.)

CARNEGIE EUROPE

The EU and Climate Security: Toward Ecological Diplomacy

by Olivia Lazard [@OliviaLazard](#) et al. (eds)

The European Green Deal announced to the world that the EU intended to transition towards a more ecological economy; this seemingly succinct statement, though, raised considerable questions regarding the shift in Europe's relationship with other governments. The assembly of authors seeks to delve into the complex international repercussions that surround the web of existing and emerging European ecological policy (particularly in the realm of climate security), and analyse whether the EU should consider alternate approaches to addressing environmental challenges. (80 p.)

INSTITUT DER DEUTSCHEN WIRTSCHAFT KÖLN (GERMAN ECONOMIC INSTITUTE)

Wie die EU die 2030-Klimaziele in den Sektoren Straßenverkehr und Gebäudewärme erreichen kann: Optionen einer konsistenten EU-weiten Regulierung im Verkehr und Gebäudesektor

by Roland Kube et al.

With the upcoming Fit-for-55 package, the EC works towards implementing a set of wide-ranging legislative proposals to align policy frameworks across the EU with the

objectives of the EU Green Deal. This study examines four regulatory options, including carbon pricing, for the road transport and buildings sectors, which are responsible for 40 percent of GHG emissions and so far not covered under the EU-ETS. (DE – 27 p)

BERTELSMANN STIFTUNG / INSTITUT FÜR WELTWIRTSCHAFT KIEL (KIEL INSTITUTE FOR THE WORLD ECONOMY)

EU-Klimapolitik, Klimaclubs und CO₂-Grenzausgleich

by Hendrik Mahlkow [@HMahlkow](#) et al.

This study simulates a large number of climate policy scenarios in order to shed light on the effectiveness of European climate policy in an international context. (DE – 29 p.)

BERTELSMANN STIFTUNG

Der Effekt von klimapolitischen Maßnahmen auf CO₂-Emissionen und CO₂-Fußabdrücke

by Sonja Peterson et al.

The aim of this study is to clarify the significance of the various types of emissions and, in particular, the effects of climate policy measures on CO₂ emissions and CO₂ footprints (DE – 28 p.)

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

Ein CO₂-Grenzausgleich für den Green Deal der EU: Funktionen, Fakten und Fallstricke

by Susanne Dröge [@droege_s](#)

The heads of state and government of the EU propose introducing a "carbon border adjustment mechanism" from 2023, to charge imported goods according to the CO₂ emitted during their production. This study shows the sums on which a CBAM is based for imports of steel, cement and electricity and gives recommendations for the new regulation. (DE – 45 p.)

ECOLOGIC INSTITUTE / EUROPEAN CLIMATE FOUNDATION / INSTITUT DU DÉVELOPPEMENT DURABLE ET DES RELATIONS INTERNATIONALES (INSTITUTE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS)

Measuring progress towards climate neutrality. Part I: assessing structural change through net zero indicators
Measuring progress towards climate neutrality. Part II: Integrating net zero indicators in EU governance processes

Achieving climate neutrality requires structural changes to our economic system, with solutions that work across sectors. The Ecologic Institute has developed an assessment matrix based on net zero indicators that can measure climate neutrality, and proposes ways to integrate this framework into existing EU policy processes. (80 p. / 36 p.)

DEUTSCHES INSTITUT FÜR ENTWICKLUNGSPOLITIK (GERMAN DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE)

Priorities for a development-friendly EU carbon border adjustment mechanism (CBAM)
Prioritäten für eine entwicklungsfreundliche Ausgestaltung des CO₂-Grenzausgleichsmechanismus der EU

by Clara Brandi  [@ClaraBrandi](#)

This paper sets out corresponding improvements to the CBAM in the forthcoming EU's legislative process. (EN – 4 p. / DE – 4 p.)

DEUTSCHES INSTITUT FÜR ENTWICKLUNGSPOLITIK (GERMAN DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE)

The external dimensions of the European Green Deal: the case for an integrated approach

by Svea Koch et al.

The EU needs to define the European Green Deal through its external policies in an integrated approach, through (1) bilateral cooperation relationships, (2) promoting

coherence and addressing negative spillovers and (3) the EU's global leadership in multilateral fora according to this paper. (4 p.)

ZENTRUM FÜR EUROPÄISCHE WIRTSCHAFTSFORSCHUNG (CENTRE FOR EUROPEAN ECONOMIC RESEARCH)

Between- and within-country distributional impacts from harmonizing carbon prices in the EU

by Florian Landis  [@florian_landis](#) et al.

This paper examines the distributional impacts from (i) harmonizing prices for carbon dioxide emissions across sectors and EU countries and (ii) using alternative rules for carbon revenue distribution. Evaluating different policy options using a social welfare function that incorporates inequality aversion suggests that there is no trade-off between efficiency and equity in harmonizing carbon prices in the EU economy. (48 p.)

ZENTRUM FÜR EUROPÄISCHE WIRTSCHAFTSFORSCHUNG (CENTRE FOR EUROPEAN ECONOMIC RESEARCH)

A smart design of new EU emissions trading could save 61 per cent of mitigation costs

by Jan Abrell et al.

This policy brief addresses the need for market-based flexibility mechanisms to determine the cost-effective allocation of the EU carbon budget. (4 p.)

ISTITUTO AFFARI INTERNAZIONALI

Climate change and sustainability: Mediterranean perspectives

by Andrea Dessì et al. (eds)

This document examines the challenges and interlinkages between climate change and sustainable development across the Mediterranean, where the climate crisis is further aggravating pre-existing political, social, economic and environmental fragilities. The research takes stock of present realities and seeks to identify priority areas of engagement while promoting better

understanding of the nature and implications of this multidimensional relationship. (136 p.)

INSTITUTE FOR EUROPEAN ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

Exploring the benefits of biocontrol for sustainable agriculture

by Jean-François Hulot [@Hulot_JF](#) et al.

In creating a sustainable and healthy food system, reducing the pressure on the environment is key. As a non-chemical and targeted input, biocontrol can offer a systemic and balanced solution for sustainable agriculture. This report explores the benefits of biocontrol and the role it could play in the implementation of the European Green Deal. (42 p.)

BARCELONA CENTRE FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Urban mobility after COVID-19: Long-term strategies for the sustainable mobility transition in European cities

by Hannah Abdullah [@hannahabdull](#) et al. (eds)

To deliver on its Green Deal and become climate neutral by 2050, the EU must reduce transport-related greenhouse gas emissions by 90%. This volume explores how European cities can develop more robust and socially just long-term mobility plans, to effectively contribute to the EU's climate goal. It examines both opportunities for accelerating change as well as barriers to long-term planning and transformation. (86 p.)

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

The perspectives of the Czech automotive industry's decarbonization Perspektivy dekarbonizace českého automobilového průmyslu

by Michal Hrubý

Carbon intensive industries such as automotive are the backbone of the Czech economic system, making the Czech economy the fourth most carbon intensive in

the EU. However, it is precisely the emission-intensive industries that will face the most disruptive challenges in the times marked by digital and green transformations. (EN – 20 p. / CS – 20 p.)

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT THINK TANK

EU climate change diplomacy in a post-Covid-19 world

by Dennis Tänzler [@DennisTaenzler](#) et al.

Against the backdrop of several important trends shaping the EU's external action on climate, this study assesses the progress of climate diplomacy since 2018, with a focus on climate security, trade, development cooperation, sustainable capital flows, gender equality and science, research and innovation. Based on this assessment, it outlines the tasks for a European climate diplomacy of the future. (58 p.)

INSTITUTE FOR EUROPEAN ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

What can Least Developed Countries and other climate vulnerable countries expect from the EU Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM)?

by Tim Gore [@tim_e_gore](#) et al.

The briefing explores the potential impact of an EU Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) for climate vulnerable countries. The mechanism, proposed by the European Commission, carries substantial implications for such countries as their exports are likely to be directly or indirectly impacted by the measure, and because of the likely knock-on implications for wider multilateral efforts to fight climate change. The briefing proposes key ways in which these issues might be addressed. (10 p.)

GENERAL AFFAIRS

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

Villkorsmekanismen – sista halmstrået för EU:s rättsstatsprincip?

by Anna Södersten

The rule of law has been eroded for a long time in several EU Member States and the trend does not seem to be reversing. The Union's latest tool is to stop payments from the EU budget to a Member State that does not respect the rule of law. According to the author, whether it will work is uncertain, but at the same time there is every hope for this so-called condition mechanism. (SV – 17 p.)

GLOBSEC POLICY INSTITUTE

Mind The Opinion: Stronger Together For A Stronger EU

by Linda Tothova  [@linda_tothova](https://twitter.com/linda_tothova)

This series of polls conducted in Central and Eastern Europe illustrate discrepancies between current EU policies and the desired initiatives of CEE citizens. Results indicate growing favour towards non-EU potential strategic partners, particularly the United States, Russia, and China. The author has also crafted policy recommendations in step with the findings. (14 p.)

EUROPEAN POLICY CENTRE

Recovery and reform in the EU's most vulnerable regions

by Alison Hunter [@AlisonH29](https://twitter.com/AlisonH29) et al.

As nations begin to emerge from Covid-19, poor and low-growth regions throughout the European Union continue to struggle under the disproportionate weight of the pandemic's economic effects, at a time when many already suffered from long-term financial deficit. This policy analysis argues for a tailored approach to elevate the EU's most impoverished areas, composed of targeted reforms and primacy in recovery priority. (4 p.)

JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS

PEACE RESEARCH INSTITUTE OSLO

Migrant political engagement and voting from abroad

by Davide Bertelli et al.

In this report the authors present insights from interviews with Polish and Romanian migrants living in Barcelona and Oslo. The analytical focus is on the political engagement of these EU migrant groups in their countries of origin. (45 p.)

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

EU:s migrationspakt – vart är unionen på väg?

by Rebecca Thorburn Stern

The EU Migration Pact is the Commission's proposal for a new asylum and migration policy for the Union. The pact contains, among other things, new proposals that regulate solidarity between EU countries, border procedures, screening and accountability. According to the author, the pact contains mostly reformulations of old ideas, and what solidarity actually means is not entirely clear. (SV – 21 p.)

EUROPEAN POLICY CENTRE

'When Mayors Make Migration Policy': The future of city diplomacy

by Christiane Heimann et al.

As cities become increasingly diversified through migration, local administrations develop integration strategies. The brief notes that policy from all levels of government form a crucial interchange, and experienced grassroots initiatives are worth promoting throughout the higher echelons of international governance. (4 p.)

EUROPEAN POLICY CENTRE

Solidarity in the EU: More hype than substance?

by Sophie Pornschlegel  [@spornschlege!](#)

European solidarity occurs at two levels: between citizens (interpersonal) and between nations (interstate). The author takes a critical view of the former, stating that while international goodwill holds steady for business's sake, the micro level of citizenry feel little towards their fellow European. The brief focuses on methods to bring both levels closer together as a union, recommending a shift away from transactional traditions and reconceptualising solidarity. (32 p.)

HANNS-SEIDEL-STIFTUNG (HANNS SEIDEL FOUNDATION)

Sind sie in Gefahr? Die EU verteidigt ihre grundlegenden Werte und rechtsstaatlichen Prinzipien

by Monika Hohlmeier  [@MHohlmeier](#)

This paper analyses the core values of the EU and its protective mechanisms. (DE – 10 p.)

BERTELSMANN STIFTUNG

Democracy and the rule of law in the European Union Demokratie und Rechtstaatlichkeit in der Europäischen Union Democratie en de rechtsstaat in tijden van pandemie en populisme La démocratie et l'Etat de droit a l'heure de la pandémie et du populisme

This report examines not only how European citizens evaluate the state of democracy in their country and the EU more generally, but also what they think characterizes a good democracy. The appendix in the English version includes the survey questionnaire and survey responses. (EN – 52 p. / DE – 27 p. / NL – 28 p. / FR – 27 p.)

ÖSTERREICHISCHE INSTITUT FÜR INTERNATIONALE POLITIK (AUSTRIAN INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS)

The women, peace and security agenda in EU border management

by Lawreen Gyan-Addo et al.

Despite the notable advances achieved at a legislative and regulatory EU level, the implementation and integration processes still fail to ensure an effective protection of women's rights. One important gap in this regard concerns borders and migration which are not fully recognised as WPS-related issues nor are they integrated into the appropriate policy frameworks. Against this background, this paper calls for a greater acknowledgement of the increased danger faced by women arriving at European borders including, but not limited to, sexual and gender based violence, and for appropriate levels of protection. (26 p.)

HERTIE SCHOOL / JACQUES DELORS

EU Talent Partnerships - Fit for purpose?

by Lucas Rasche  [@LuRasche](#)

On 11 June, the Commission presented its proposal for so-called "Talent Partnerships" as a framework for member states to engage strategically with selected third countries on legal migration. Based on several pilot projects, the Talent Partnerships should allow member states to address their skills needs whilst improving cooperation in areas such as readmission or migration management. This policy brief takes a closer look behind the illusive terminology and asks: what exactly are Talent Partnerships? (8 p.)

ISTITUTO AFFARI INTERNAZIONALI

EU differentiation in border, asylum and police cooperation: drivers, effectiveness and crisis

by Emmanuel Comte et al.

For two decades, differentiation has proved effective to abolish internal border controls, integrate the related cooperation in EU structures, enlist the cooperation of non-EU member states, and produce joint policy outputs on asylum, external borders and police

affairs. The text addresses its effectiveness and future trends in the light of the growing challenges of external migration. (26 p.)

BARCELONA CENTRE FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Guidelines on how to include the gender perspective in the analysis of migration narratives

by Berta Güell et al.

These guidelines try to answer questions about how gender is involved in the migration process, the effects of migration on gender relations, how those relations impact the representation of migration, or how media and politics shape migration narratives from a gender perspective. They do so by providing a conceptual and methodological framework for the inclusion of a gender and intersectional perspective in migration studies. (20 p.)

TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL

Global Corruption Barometer European Union 2021 - Citizens' Views And Experiences Of Corruption

by Roberto Martinez B. Kukutschka

European Union countries are known for being wealthy, stable and democratic. However, their clean image is undermined by issues ranging from socioeconomic disparities and erosion of the rule of law to corruption problems. Corruption, especially, affects every country in the political bloc. The Global Corruption Barometer – European Union 2021 shows that people in all 27 EU member states are well aware of these issues and want their leaders to act with more integrity. (76 p.)

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT THINK TANK

Impact of Organised Crime on the EU's Financial Interests Annex C: Country Factsheets for Impact of Organised Crime on the EU's Financial Interests

by Jack Malan et al.

This analytical study examines the impact of organised crime on the EU's finances. Taking together the expenditure and revenue

sides, the research suggests that between 1% and 2% of the EU budget is defrauded each year. The study also assesses measures at the EU and Member State levels to combat the problem, and recommends actions to help reinforce these measures. (73 p. / 79 p.)

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT THINK TANK

Tackling deepfakes in European policy Annex Tackling deepfakes in European policy

by Mariëtte van Huijstee  [@Mariette_v_H](#) et al.

The emergence of a new generation of digitally manipulated media – also known as deepfakes – has generated substantial concerns about possible misuse. In response to these concerns, this report assesses the technical, societal and regulatory aspects of deepfakes and identifies five dimensions of the deepfake lifecycle that policy-makers could take into account to prevent and address the adverse impacts of deepfakes. The report includes policy options under each of the five dimensions, which could be incorporated into the AI legislative framework, the digital service act package and beyond. (116 p.)

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT THINK TANK

The European Commission's legislative proposals in the New Pact on Migration and Asylum

by Evelien Brouwer et al.

This study provides a detailed mapping and analysis of the central legal changes and issues characterising the five main legislative proposals accompanying the Pact on Migration and Asylum which relate to Screening, Asylum Procedures, Eurodac, Asylum and Migration Management, and Crisis and Force Majeure. As a second step, the study provides a critical assessment of the five proposals as to their legal coherence, fundamental rights compliance, and application of the principle of solidarity and fair sharing of responsibility enshrined in Article 80 TFEU. (249 p.)

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT THINK TANK

Exchanges of Personal Data After the Schrems II Judgment

by Ian Brown  [@1Br0wn](#) et al.

This study examines reforms to the legal framework for the exchange of personal and other data between the EU and the USA that would be necessary to ascertain that the requirements of EU law are satisfied and that the rights of EU citizens are respected, following the Schrems II judgment of the EU Court of Justice. (122 p.)

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT THINK TANK

Mapping threats to peace and democracy worldwide

by Elena Lazarou  [@ElenLazarou](#) et al.

This paper sets out the findings of the 2021 exercise of the 'Normandy Index' which was set up to measure the level of threats to peace, security and democracy around the world. The paper explains how the Index can be used to compare peace – defined on the basis of a given country's performance against a range of predetermined threats – across countries and regions. It is complemented by 51 individual country case studies, derived from the Index and two papers, one on the EU's contribution to Peace and Security in 2021, the other on the EU's evolving relations with Turkey. These studies and papers have been drafted as a contribution to this year's Normandy World Peace Forum. (80 p.)

TRANSPORT / TELECOMMUNICATIONS / ENERGY

EUROPEAN UNION INSTITUTE FOR SECURITY STUDIES

Naval gazing? The Strategic Compass and the EU's maritime presence

by Daniel Fiott  [@DanielFiott](#)

This brief asks how the Strategic Compass can make a tangible difference to the EU's role as a maritime security provider. The first port of call, however, is to better understand

the contemporary nature of maritime threats, risks and challenges. (8 p.)

WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM

Paving the way: EU policy Action for automotive circularity

The European Green Deal and COVID-19 recovery funds offer a window of opportunity for policymakers and industry players to act, and put the automotive industry on a transition pathway to a Paris-aligned, circular future. This report presents main policy interventions that will set the benefits of a circular automotive industry in motion. (69 p.)

E3G

Recovery investments and the European energy transition: a Green Recovery Tracker deep dive

by Felix Heilmann  [@HeilmannFelix](#)

The Green Recovery Tracker project analysed recovery plans and measures in 17 EU countries. This briefing provides an in-depth analysis on the relation between the assessed recovery spending and the energy transition. (12 p.)

E3G

Setting sail: EU priorities to deliver North Seas offshore wind

by Simon Skillings et al.

The European Commission has recognised the critical role that offshore renewable resources, especially offshore wind, will play in enabling the Union to become climate neutral by 2050. It has set ambitious deployment targets as part of the EU Strategy on Offshore Renewable Energy. This briefing summarises the modelling and sets out four 'critical path' recommendations if the EU is to realise these benefits. (21 p.)

EUROPEAN CENTRE FOR INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ECONOMY

The economic costs of restricting the cross-border flow of data

by Daniela Chikova et al.

Data usage has become inextricable from daily life for citizens and companies alike. When these flows of information are corrupted or compromised, consequences can exacerbate to a global degree. According to this brief, digital dependency has skyrocketed alongside a coinciding rise in governmental restrictions. The authors posit that tightening data laws disproportionately squeeze small businesses rather than the intended multinational corporations, possibly amounting to millions of euros in lost transfer opportunities should further Transatlantic bans be imposed. (86 p.)

CORPORATE EUROPE OBSERVATORY / EUROPEAN NETWORK OF CORPORATE OBSERVATORIES / FOSSIL FREE POLITICS CAMPAIGN

Hijacking the recovery through hydrogen: how fossil fuel lobbying is siphoning Covid recovery funds

Apropiarse de la recuperación a través del hidrógeno: cómo los lobbies energéticos están desviando los fondos de recuperación de la Covid-19

La relance dévoyée par l'hydrogène : comment les lobbys des énergies fossiles siphonnent les plans de relance post-Covid

by Rachel Tansey  [@ecospaceship](#) et al. (eds)

This Recovery Watch report shows that industry has been aggressively lobbying at the national and EU level not just for 'green' hydrogen and biomethane but also for 'blue' hydrogen and CCS. Despite the Commission appearing to exclude them from EU recovery funds, there are still other European and domestic funds available to support these fossil fuel projects. According to the authors, the only path to a fossil-free recovery that prioritises social and environmental justice is to cut the fossil fuel industry out of public decision-making processes at the national, EU and international level, similar to existing restrictions on the tobacco industry. (EN – 35 p. / ES – 38 p. / FR – 29 p.)

EUROPEAN POLICY CENTRE

How to get European businesses to digitalise

by Frederico Mollet  [@thinktankrico](#)

The digital gap between Europe and external powers, the author posits, poses a gravening problem, especially for tech-reliant industries. The brief explains that improved resources to support the Digital Compass plan and funding from private entities are among the steps towards ameliorating Europe's standing in the online world. (4 p.)

PROGRESSIVE POLICY INSTITUTE

The state of U.S. and European broadband prices and deployment

by Michael Mandel  [@MichaelMandel](#) et al.

The policy analysis claims an affordability crisis regarding European broadband speeds and prices as compared to those in the United States. Various metrics in the study show the EU overall average broadband service to be uneven among member states, in terms of speed, coverage and customer cost. (14 p.)

BRUEGEL

A new direction for the European Union's half-hearted semiconductor strategy

by Niclas Frederic Poitiers et al.

Semiconductors are an essential component in most electronic devices and can be found in products from smartphones to cars. Although most high tech chips come from East Asia, the EU has relative monopolies in parts of the supply chain, but its position is challenged by US and Chinese investment. To improve the EU's position, this policy contribution makes recommendations for a more targeted strategy that builds on existing strengths. (21 p.)

INSTITUTE FOR EUROPEAN ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

Sustainable and inclusive transport systems

by Tim Gore [@tim_e_gore](#) et al.

The paper presents evidence of gender inequality in the use of different types of transport, in the types of trips people make, in the experience of using transport and of employment in the transport sector. This is followed by an overview of the relevant legislative landscape under the Green Deal and recommendations to help build inclusive, gender-just and sustainable mobility systems in the EU. (6 p.)

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT THINK TANK

Energy Performance of Buildings Directive 2010/31/EU: Fit for 55 revision

by Susanna Tenhunen

This paper by the European Parliamentary Research Service (EPRS) provides a succinct overview of publicly available material on the implementation, application and effectiveness to date of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD) as part of the Fit for 55 package. It draws on input from EU institutions and bodies and from external organisations, taking a thematic approach with special focus on Member States' long-term renovation strategies. (35 p.)

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT THINK TANK

Artificial Intelligence and public services

by Tjerk Timan et al.

This briefing looks at how AI has become a key enabling technology in public services and how its use has increased over the past two years. The authors consider that explainability of AI systems in public services is crucial but difficult to achieve in the case of black-box algorithms. They point to the growing public concern over the development and use of AI in society, suggesting that the public sector should lead the way in creating trustworthy AI. (11 p.)

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT THINK TANK

Innovative technologies shaping the 2040 battlefield

by Jacopo Bellasio et al.

This EPRS study provides an assessment of the risks, challenges and opportunities related to new and emerging technologies that are most expected to shape the future battlefield out to 2040. It presents implications stemming from consideration of individual technologies, as well as cross-cutting analysis of their interactions with broader political, social, economic, and environmental trends. In doing so, the study highlights a need for EU Institutions and Member States to pursue a broad range of capability development initiatives in a coherent and coordinated manner, ensure the development of an agile regulatory and organisational environment, and guide investments in technologies most relevant to the European context. (142 p.)



FOREIGN AND SECURITY POLICY / DEFENCE

RAHVUSVAHELINE KAITSEUURINGUTE
KESKUS (INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR
DEFENCE AND SECURITY)

NATO's new strategic concept: balancing responses to multiple threats

by Martin Hurt [@martinhurt](#) et al.

At their summit in Brussels in June 2021, NATO started the process of drafting a new strategic concept. The current concept, which was published in 2010, is clearly outdated. According to the author, the new version will need to tackle a broad range of issues if it is to steer the Alliance through the coming decade. This analysis examines the interests of Estonia and the Baltic states more broadly in these key aspects of a new strategic concept. (21 p.)

EUROPEAN UNION INSTITUTE FOR
SECURITY STUDIES

European sovereignty: strategy and interdependence

by Daniel Fiott [@DanielFiott](#) (ed.)

This paper engages with some of the key elements involved in debates about EU strategic sovereignty with case studies that centre on semiconductors, the Iran nuclear deal and EU security and defence partnerships with the United States and United Kingdom. It also includes an introductory chapter that grapples with three major conceptual observations about the term strategic sovereignty. (49 p.)

EUROPEAN UNION INSTITUTE FOR
SECURITY STUDIES

The future of conflict prevention: preparing for a hotter, increasingly digital and fragmented 2030

by Katariina Mustasilta [@KMustasilta](#)

Looking ahead to the horizon of 2030, this paper analyses the need for a conflict prevention approach in the face of three megatrends that will have far-reaching global repercussions. The three trends – climate change, digitalisation and the fragmentation of authority – will not only have manifold environmental, social and political implications, but may also have considerable impact on peace and conflict dynamics. (114 p.)

ATLANTIC COUNCIL / GLOBSEC POLICY
INSTITUTE

The EU Strategic Autonomy: Central and Eastern European Perspectives

by Piotr Arak [@piotrarak](#) et al.

Authors from various Eastern European backgrounds joined their research into a comprehensive analysis on European strategic autonomy. The assembly of papers covers topics of interest across a wide range of fields, including economic autonomy, digital sovereignty, and alliance hesitancy. United in the overarching theme of defence, each contributor expresses their own assertions on which actions the European Union ought to undertake in maintaining its own security. (48 p.)

FONDATION POUR LA RECHERCHE
STRATÉGIQUE (FRS)

Solidarity and deterrence in the Eastern Mediterranean

by Elie Perot [@Elie_Perot](#)

2020's Turkey security infringements nearly caused Greece to invoke article 42.7 of the Treaty of the European Union, which would have stipulated that the EU member states assemble their collective power to address the matter. The policy brief places this discussion in a broader context, approaching

the deliberation from defence and legal perspectives. The author then goes on to present a hypothetical situation in which a future security threat activates the TEU's defence clause, analysing the subsequent actions that might be undertaken by the various EU member nations. (41 p.)

THE GERMAN MARSHALL FUND OF THE UNITED STATES

Defining New Modes, Models, and Agendas for EU-Turkish Relations

by Kadri Tastan  [@KadriTastan](#) et al.

Despite complicated relations between Europe and Turkey, inextricable ties makes a complete cut-off non-viable. Instead, reshaping the existing structures between the two disparate entities presents more feasible areas of agreement. The policy papers' authors investigate a range of factors influencing how both governing bodies approach official relationships, such as energy cooperation and forecasts of future crises. (26 p.)

HEINRICH-BÖLL-STIFTUNG

Between hard and soft power: the European Union in a more competitive world

by Justyna Gotkowska  [@jgotkowska](#) et al.

This paper wants to address the question of how the EU could find its place in a more competitive world. The buzzwords of this debate were the concepts of strategic autonomy and strategic sovereignty of the EU. (58 p.)

NORSK UTENRIKSPOLITISK INSTITUTT (THE NORWEGIAN INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS)

Differentiated defence integration under French leadership

by Pernille Rieker  [@Prieker1](#)

This article shows French initiatives in European security and defence, within and outside the EU, must be understood as a whole, all contributing to strengthening European strategic autonomy in today's challenging European security context. It

also shows that differentiated integration may serve as a useful concept for understanding the various processes that take place within and outside the EU, and the relationship between them. Further, France seems to be using differentiated integration as a strategy for effectively balancing the need for further European integration and European strategic autonomy in security and defence on the one hand, and the French objective of preserving its national strategic autonomy on the other. (16 p.)

NORSK UTENRIKSPOLITISK INSTITUTT (THE NORWEGIAN INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS)

Differentiated integration and Europe's global role: a conceptual framework

by Pernille Rieker  [@Prieker1](#)

This introductory article presents a framework for studying a European role that includes initiatives taken within and outside the EU framework, but closely interlinked, indicating that the concept of differentiated integration may help to clarify Europe's role in a changing and volatile global context. (14 p.)

EGMONT – ROYAL INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

A new start for EU-US relations?

by Jim Cloos

This policy brief concentrates on a number of questions addressed to the US following the election of President Biden. The author states that a strong relationship can only thrive if we are honest with each other and at times frank. All too often the European timidity when confronted with U.S interlocutors is compensated by badmouthing them behind their backs. That is the worst possible combination. (4 p.)

EGMONT – ROYAL INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

How 2400 pages of tech industrial policy will change transatlantic relations

by Tobias Gehrke [@TGehrke](#)

The currently 2400-page long 'US Innovation and Competition Act' making its way through Congress is about one thing only: China. But it also signals a much broader shift in American geo-economic strategy towards tech industrial policy which matters just as much for Europe. This paper shows how in order to avoid major rifts, tech industrial diplomacy will need to become a staple of transatlantic affairs. (5 p.)

EGMONT – ROYAL INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

'Greening' the EU's cultural diplomacy: Uncovering the potential of the culture-climate nexus

by Vadim Kononenko

This brief argues that the EU should use the momentum of post-COVID recovery for strategically aligning its cultural diplomacy with the climate and sustainability agenda. (8 p.)

EUROPEAN UNION INSTITUTE FOR SECURITY STUDIES

European Sovereignty

by Daniel Fiott [@DanielFiott](#) (ed.)

This paper explores the term "Strategic Sovereignty", from economic interdependencies, strategic partnerships, multilateralism on digitalization to security and defence. It also examines the transatlantic relationship and the Iran nuclear deal. It contains concrete policy recommendations to enhance the EU's strategic sovereignty. (49 p.)

FRIEDRICH EBERT STIFTUNG (FES)

European sovereignty: European analyses

by Gilles Finchelstein [@finchelstein](#) et al.

This report aims to contribute to the ongoing debate on strategic autonomy by examining public opinion on European sovereignty. Based on a survey among 8,000 citizens from eight EU countries conducted for the Fondation Jean-Jaurès and the Friedrich-Ebert Foundation, it finds that although opinions vary European sovereignty has mostly positive connotations and is seen as a desirable goal in response to future challenges. (44 p.)

OŚRODEK STUDIÓW WSCHODNICH (CENTRE FOR EASTERN STUDIES)

NATO 2030: towards a new strategy

by Justyna Gotkowska [@jgotkowska](#)

The NATO summit held in Brussels on 14 June was intended to show a return to transatlantic unity after four years of the Trump administration. NATO is adapting to changes in the security environment by adopting the NATO 2030 agenda and developing a new strategic concept. The brief examines the parameters of this adaptation, looking at the eastern flank, engagement in containing China and security cooperation between the US and the EU. (5 p.)

REAL INSTITUTO ELCANO

Afganistán: razones por las que el acceso al poder de los talibán incidirá sobre la amenaza yihadista en Europa Occidental

by Fernando Reinares [@F_Reinares](#)

The Afghan Taliban maintain links with al-Qaida and other jihadist organisations active in South Asia. The article argues that, with the Afghan Taliban in power, al-Qaida and its related entities can be expected to have a permissive space to plan attacks. This would have an impact both on radicalisation and recruitment and on acts of terrorism in Europe. (ES – 7 p.)

ISTITUTO AFFARI INTERNAZIONALI

European strategic autonomy and the US-China rivalry: can the EU "prefer not to choose"?

by Sylvie Bermann [@SylvieBermann](#)

US-China rivalry, already established but exacerbated by the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic, will be the defining geopolitical framework for the coming decades. This competition has not only a trade and economic dimension but also a soft and hard power scope. According to this paper, EU decisions should be based on European interests on a case-by-case basis and should not be constrained by decisions taken in Washington. (12 p.)

ISTITUTO AFFARI INTERNAZIONALI

Differentiation and the European Union's foreign and security policy

by Marco Siddi [@MarcoSiddi](#) et al.

Differentiation is frequent in European foreign, security and defence policy. This article reviews scholarly literature and recent empirical analyses of differentiation. It argues that its effectiveness depends on shared interests and that differentiated cooperation has had largely positive outcomes when it has adhered to common EU values and positions but undermined EU foreign and security policy when it has not. (26 p.)

EUROPEAN INSTITUTE FOR ASIAN STUDIES

The EU connectivity strategy: putting words into action

by Manuel Widmann

The EU is stepping up its global connectivity efforts, also seeking to offer countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America viable alternatives to China's 'Belt and Road Initiative'. This paper studies the concept of EU's connectivity its increased interest on the matter. It continues by assessing how the EU Connectivity Strategy can be translated into action and concludes with the formulation of 16 policy recommendations, related to funding, sustainable

implementation, and possible cooperation and competition with other actors such as China or the United States. (37 p.)

BARCELONA CENTRE FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

What's in a tweet? Twitter's impact on public opinion and EU foreign affairs

by Lewin Schmitt [@lewinontheedge](#)

This paper uses text mining and sentiment analysis of tweets to explore the EU's diplomatic communication practices and to measure public opinion on foreign affairs. This analysis reveals differences in public perceptions of the EU's relationship with China, India and Russia and also a difference in tone between how the EU talks about its diplomatic relations and how the general public does so. (16 p.)

EUROPEAN INSTITUTE FOR ASIAN STUDIES

Port of Sines: the Atlantic end of the new silk road?

by Samuel Weichert

The Portuguese port of Sines has become an economic battleground for Chinese and US influence in Europe. This study presents China's ambitions to transform the port into a key Atlantic outpost of the Belt and Road Initiative and US plans to develop a European gateway for its shale gas. It concludes by calling for a European response taking into account its ambition and ability to pursue strategic autonomy. (11 p.)

INSTITUTO ESPAÑOL DE ESTUDIOS ESTRATÉGICOS

Conflict in the 21st Century: the big ones raise the bet Conflictividad s. XXI: los grandes suben la apuesta

by Francisco José Dacoba Cerviño

The text studies today's geopolitical panorama. It focuses on the factors that generate tensions across the board, factors such as globalisation, the emergence of new domains such as outer space and

cyberspace, the climate of "Great Power Competition" and the multipolar order we are heading towards. (EN – 13 p. / ES – 14 p.)

INSTITUTO ESPAÑOL DE ESTUDIOS ESTRATÉGICOS

Inteligencia artificial: una carrera hacia un futuro tecnológico.

by Joaquín Fournier Guimbao

Artificial intelligence has the capacity to transform social relations and employment, impacting the economy, productivity, inequality, growth and innovation. It is generating a new technology race and fueling tensions between powers. The paper discusses the EU's options and stresses that only united will it be able to overcome the many obstacles along the way. (ES – 18 p.)

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

Analysing EU's Sahel strategies: A civilian approach in the era of pragmatism

by Vojtěch Freitag

This April, the EU has unveiled and adopted a brand-new long-term 2021 Sahel strategy, which should reflect the turbulent development and better coordinate the multiple policies and instruments the EU pursues in the region. The new strategy, placing emphasis on the civil society, acknowledges the limits of solely security-based resilient approaches and attempts to partly re-establish value-based long-term approach with focus on governance reforms and accountability. (9 p.)

ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΟ ΊΔΡΥΜΑ ΕΥΡΩΠΑΪΚΗΣ ΚΑΙ ΕΞΩΤΕΡΙΚΗΣ ΠΟΛΙΤΙΚΗΣ (HELLENIC FOUNDATION FOR EUROPEAN

The 'Magnificent Seven' of European Defence Integration Αμυντική Ολοκλήρωση της Ευρωπαϊκής Ένωσης Και οι Επτά ήταν Υπέροχοι

by Spyros Blavoukos et al.

Defence cooperation in the EU is growing, reflecting the European citizens' view of the EU as a security enhancer. This policy paper takes stock of current developments and

analyses the positions of seven EU member-states on defence integration (France, Germany, Italy, Spain, Poland, Portugal, and Greece). (EN – 56 p. / EL – 61 p.)

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT THINK TANK

EU preparedness and responses to Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) threats

by Alexandra Rimpler-Schmid et al.

This study provides an update in the context of, but not limited to, the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic of the current level of each of the C, B, R and N threat elements, including the type of actor from which such threats might stem. It also takes stock of the existing preparedness and response mechanisms and matches these against the updated threat landscape to determine the current state of play of the EU's response tools and remaining gaps where improvement may be needed. The study puts forward a number of recommendations aimed at enabling the EU to better support and manage an EU-wide crisis response in the CBRN field in a timely and effective manner. (110 p.)

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT THINK TANK

Artificial Intelligence diplomacy | Artificial Intelligence governance as a new external policy tool

by Ulrike Franke  [@RikeFranke](#)

This paper discusses the way that AI impacts the European Union's geopolitical power, and its relationship with other countries. It presents possible scenarios for how AI may change the international balance of power and recommends ways for the EU and its members to respond. (55 p.)

TRADE

ELINKEINOELÄMÄN TUTKIMUSLAITOS
(RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF THE FINNISH
ECONOMY)

BITs with a bite? EU home investment effects of EU-China bilateral investment treaties

by Tero Kuusi [@TeroKuusi](#) et al.

In this paper, the authors study the impacts of bilateral investment treaties (BITs) between the EU countries and China on EU home investments. (36 p.)

TERRA NOVA

Le nouvel âge progressiste de la mondialisation

by Pascal Canfin [@pcanfin](#)

Globalisation is undergoing a shift, asserts the author, in which public sovereignty and climate considerations are taking centre-stage. The brief introduces the concept of 'progressive globalisation', which will see a combination of different political fiscal policies; to defend the burgeoning vector of economy against those that would take advantage, the author proposes limits to guide growth. (FR – 27 p.)

CORPORATE EUROPE OBSERVATORY /
FRIENDS OF THE EARTH EUROPE /
EUROPEAN COALITION FOR CORPORATE
JUSTICE

Off the hook?: How business lobbies against liability for human rights and environmental abuses

by Rachel Tansey [@ecospaceship](#)

EU mandatory due diligence legislation is expected from the EC's DG Justice in late 2021. The stakes for people and planet are high, but since business' ability to profit with impunity is also on the line, the lobbying on the file has been intense. (23 p.)

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

Decoupling Europe

by Gabriel Felbermayr [@GFelbermayr](#) et al.

As a catalyst for economic and political transition the global COVID-19 pandemic has revealed how vulnerable the global trade network and specifically global supply chains are to supply and demand shocks. This has triggered a political discussion about the rising dependence of domestic economic performance on global trade relations, especially with China. This paper proposes in particular, relocating value chains back to the EU in order to improve resilience in the face of crises. (20 p.)

ISTITUTO AFFARI INTERNAZIONALI

EU open strategic autonomy in a post-covid world: an Italian perspective on the sustainability of global value chains

by Fabrizio Botti [@fabribotti](#) et al.

The text addresses concerns about the EU's new trade strategy focusing on resilience and sustainability of supply chains as a pillar of Europe's path towards open strategic autonomy. Based on a case study for Italy, it considers that restructuring Global Value Chains through reshoring processes is neither efficient nor a priority for companies and it recommends alternative trade policy options. (22 p.)

ISTITUTO AFFARI INTERNAZIONALI

US–China rivalry and European strategic autonomy in the post-covid global economy

by Paolo Guerrieri

The world economy has changed over recent years with the US-China conflict at its centre. Given these shifts, the EU has to strengthen its own position in the world. A more autonomous foreign economic policy strategy will require an internal component for which this study proposes 3 priority areas: a broader and more effective EU trade policy and foreign investment strategy; reducing dependence on external demand and trade surpluses; and narrowing the technology gap with the US and China. (14 p.)

ISTITUTO AFFARI INTERNAZIONALI

Strategic autonomy in post-covid trade policy: how far should we politicise supply chains?

by Elvire Fabry [@elvirefabry](#) et al.

The growing US-China rivalry calls for the development of a systemic approach to supply chain's resilience that takes into account all levels of subcontracting. According to the text, this demands that the member states work on a close coordination of an industrial policy that relies on the increased attractiveness of the Single Market and a trade policy that aims to protect populations from supply shortages. (23 p.)

ISTITUTO AFFARI INTERNAZIONALI

The EU-UK partnership and implications for differentiation within the EU and between the EU and third countries

by Jannike Wachowiak et al.

This paper discusses the nature of the Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA) as the new basis of EU-UK relations, as well as its sustainability, legitimacy and effectiveness. It concludes that the EU needs to stay attentive to evolving perceptions of Brexit, and show that EU membership remains attractive and is a relevant framework for dealing with global challenges that cannot effectively be addressed at the national level. (26 p.)

ISTITUTO AFFARI INTERNAZIONALI

Development finance in challenging times

by Nicola Bilotta et al. (eds)

This text collects contributions from leading experts and multilateral development banks on the opportunities and challenges for development finance in a post-pandemic world. The global scale of the pandemic made clear the intrinsically transnational nature of all the major global challenges. The authors explore the key areas of development policies that are likely to become crucial: the private-sector contribution to the achievement of the SDGs; climate finance; and prospects and policies for low-income countries and fragile states. (114 p.)

DEVELOPMENT

DEUTSCHES INSTITUT FÜR ENTWICKLUNGSPOLITIK (GERMAN DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE)

The rise of the Team Europe approach in EU development cooperation: assessing a moving target

by Niels Keijzer [@keijzer_niels](#) et al.

What is "Team Europe"? How does it affect the EU's development policy? This paper analyses the EU's global response to the COVID-19 pandemic and explores its evolving motivations, priorities and current approaches to development cooperation under the "Team Europe" label. (46 p.)

DEUTSCHES INSTITUT FÜR ENTWICKLUNGSPOLITIK (GERMAN DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE)

The EU-UNDP partnership and added value in EU development cooperation

by Erik Lundsgaarde

The EU is an increasingly important funding source for UN development organisations. This paper outlines the priorities and modes of cooperation in the EU-UNDP partnership. It discusses the respective profiles of EU and members as funders and identifies perceived advantages of UNDP as a partner. (41 p.)

AFRICA

OBSERVER RESEARCH FOUNDATION

China in Africa: The Role of Trade, Investments, and Loans Amidst Shifting Geopolitical Ambitions

by Peter Stein et al.

Chinese influence in Africa is high on the global agenda, as China within just a few decades has become a key political and economic power in the continent. Indeed, its emergence as a dominant economic and political actor might be the most important development in Africa since the end of the Cold War. This paper analyses China's economic and political relations with Africa beginning in the 1990s. It argues that the

concern is not that China has expanded its economic and political presence in the African continent; rather, that the other stakeholders have ignored it for long. (42 p.)

THE HAGUE CENTRE FOR STRATEGIC STUDIES

Digital Education in Africa: Conditions and Opportunities for Support and Collaboration

by Hugo van Manen et al.

This study sets out to identify digitalization's potential to improve access to and the quality of tertiary education in sub-Saharan Africa. It does so, first, by measuring the quality of education, the magnitude of existing barriers to education, and the state of digitalization. It then identifies and assesses the feasibility and potential impact of a series of potential interventions – all of them geared towards improving digital skills & demand for digital education, access to computing devices, and access to internet & electricity in the region. (129 p.)

EGMONT – ROYAL INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Decolonising human rights protection in Africa: impunity rhetorically repackaged?

by Stef Vandeginste  [@ArushaExit](#)

This policy brief analyses to what extent institutional reforms that are rhetorically framed as aimed at improving and decolonising human rights protection in Africa offer prospects to victims. It concludes by suggesting four avenues for further academic reflection and policy debate on how decolonisation may enhance human rights protection in Africa. (7 p.)

EUROPEAN CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT POLICY MANAGEMENT

A system, not an error: Informal cross-border trade in West Africa

by Poorva Karkare  [@PoorvaKarkare](#) et al.

A large part of intra-African trade is small-scale, cross-border, unrecorded and informal. The policy relevance of informal cross-border trade (ICBT) is increasingly

appreciated, especially given the prominent role played by women. However, there is a lack of clarity on what aspect of ICBT external support programmes seek to address and why. This study examines the 'problem' of ICBT and how to 'address' it. (38 p.)

BARCELONA CENTRE FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Climate change, development and security in the Central Sahel

by Oriol Puig Cepero et al.

This report sheds light on the possible effects of climate change on development and security in the Central Sahel, namely in Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger. The EU and its member states are heavily invested in the region through their foreign, security, and development policies. In order to be successful they need to consider the challenges and opportunities related to climate change and politically- and context-sensitive climate change adaptation. (97 p.)

ASIA-OCEANIA

OBSERVER RESEARCH FOUNDATION

India Calibrates its South China Sea Approach

by Premesha Saha  [@PremeshaSaha](#)

India has historically taken a neutral position in the disputes along the South China Sea involving China and countries of Southeast Asia, even as the tensions have threatened the security in the region. In more recent times, however, there has been a noticeable change in India's stance. This brief ponders this shift: the rationale behind India's responses vis-à-vis the disputes, and their implications on the country's 'Act East' and Indo-Pacific policies. (24 p.)

OBSERVER RESEARCH FOUNDATION

Iran Under Ebrahim Raisi: The View from India

by Kabir Taneja [@KabirTaneja](#) (ed.)

This report looks into some of the regional and international challenges that Raisi has inherited from his predecessor, the politically moderate Rouhani. (40 p.)

CENTRE FOR STRATEGIC AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

The Reasons for the Collapse of Afghan Forces

by Anthony H. Cordesman

This report highlights a wide range of issues and actions for which the US must take responsibility, but it also highlights the fact that many of the failures were caused by Afghans. It also focuses on a lesson that is all too clear from other successful insurgencies that range from the rise of communism in Russia and China to the collapse of Vietnam – and most other successful insurgencies since the end of World War II. No outside power can help a failed government that cannot help itself. (13 p.)

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

Better Together Policy Brief EU-India Cooperation in Addressing Climate Risks

by Louise van Schaik [@LouiseVanSchaik](#) et al.

This policy brief discusses how “Brussels” and “New Delhi” can work together beyond their own domestic transitions to reduce risks and enhance security across the wider regions. This includes using climate adaptation for peace and stability gains and securing a free and affordable flow of rare-earths needed for energy transition technologies. (9 p.)

CENTRAL ASIA-CAUCASUS INSTITUTE AND SILK ROAD STUDIES PROGRAM

Discovering Opportunities in the Pandemic? Four Economic Response Scenarios for Central Asia

by Farrukh Imnazarov et al.

The COVID-19 crisis represents not only an unprecedented economic disruption but also an opportunity for Central Asia. This paper proposes and examines four scenarios of economic response strategies for the region as a whole, and for Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan in particular, that result in unique development trajectories. (49 p.)

HERTIE SCHOOL / INSTITUT JACQUES DELORS

What will the EU's Indo-Pacific Strategy deliver?

by Anna Stahl

This paper discusses the joint communication issued by the High Representative and European Commission on a cooperation strategy between the EU and the Indo-Pacific. It outlines the geopolitical and economic dynamics in the Indo-Pacific that have elicited European interest, and how Member States' national approaches would support the EU agenda in that region. (4 p.)

POLSKI INSTYTUT SPRAW MIĘDZYNARODOWYCH (THE POLISH INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS)

Prospects for the Development of the EU-ASEAN Strategic Partnership

by Damian Wnukowski

On 1 December 2020, the foreign ministers of the Member States of the EU and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) decided to upgrade their relations to the level of a strategic partnership. The policy paper analyses the political importance of such a partnership, outlining possible consequences and challenges. (5 p.)

CHATHAM HOUSE - THE ROYAL INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Allusion, reasoning and luring in Chinese psychological warfare

by Youngjune Chung

Contemporary analysis explains how China's attempts to coerce and persuade its target entities work through systematic deception and perception management to achieve its authoritarian objectives. This article provides a framework to illustrate how such operations represent normative social practices that can affect both long-term US–China relations and international stability by shaping and framing how international society views the western alliance. (17 p.)

CHATHAM HOUSE - THE ROYAL INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Burden-sharing: the US, Australia and New Zealand alliances in the Pacific islands

by Joanne Wallis  [@JoanneEWallis](#) et al.

One of President Joseph Biden's foreign policy priorities is to 'renew' and 'strengthen' the United States' alliances. Yet the broad range of threats states face in the contemporary context suggests that security assistance from allies no longer only comes in the form of military capability. This article considers whether there is a need to rethink understandings of how alliance relationships are managed, particularly how the goals—or strategic burdens—of alliances are understood, how allies contribute to those burdens, and how influence is exercised within alliances. (21 p.)

CHATHAM HOUSE - THE ROYAL INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Turkish foreign policy in a post-western order: strategic autonomy or new forms of dependence?

by Mustafa Kutlay  [@mmkutlay](#) et al.

Turkish foreign policy has dramatically transformed over the last two decades. In the first decade of the Justice and Development Party's (AKP) rule, the 'logic of interdependence' constituted the driving

motive of Turkish foreign policy. In the second decade, however, the 'logic of interdependence' and the soft power-driven 'mediator–integrator' role were gradually replaced with a quest for 'strategic autonomy'. This article explores the causes of this dramatic shift. (20 p.)

INSTITUTE FOR EUROPEAN STUDIES

Japan's strategy and US-China geotechnological competition

by Yoichi Funabashi

This policy brief aims to better understand the technological underpinnings of global competition and rivalry today, but from a Japanese perspective. The brief argues that Japan has technological strengths that can help it cushion current geopolitical trends, but that Japan needs to drastically alter its national security policy to manage these geo-technological trends. It also looks at the features of the US-China technological rivalry, the specific challenges facing Japan and what more it should do to work with allies and partners – including Europe. (6 p.).

EASTERN PARTNERSHIP

OŚRODEK STUDIÓW WSCHODNICH (CENTRE FOR EASTERN STUDIES)

Lukashenko's last line of defence. The Belarusian security apparatus in a time of crisis

by Piotr Żochowski  [@piotrzoc](#)

In view of the political crisis which has been raging in Belarus since August 2020 and the growing public discontent with the regime, the state's internal security institutions have become the most important pillar of Belarusian authoritarianism. The brief analyses how the state power sector operates and tightens its relationship with Russia. (7 p.)

OŚRODEK STUDIÓW WSCHODNICH (CENTRE FOR EASTERN STUDIES)

Protest suspended – Belarusian society one year after the presidential elections

by Kamil Kłysiński

One year after unprecedented protests in Belarus and following a systematic elimination of independent media and third sector by the authorities, there are numerous indications that the social grievances have not been permanently suppressed. The brief argues that Belarusian citizens who opposed the authorities last year mostly retained their pro-democratic views, therefore showing that the process of transformation of a large part of Belarusian society is irreversible. (6 p.)

POLSKI INSTYTUT SPRAW MIĘDZYNARODOWYCH (THE POLISH INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS)

The Ukrainian Energy Sector at a Crossroads: Opportunities for Poland

by Maciej Zaniewicz  [@MaciejZaniewicz](#)

This paper looks at Ukraine's orientation towards the synchronisation of its energy system with the Continental Europe Synchronous Area (CESA) and the need to determine the future of nuclear energy has forced it to settle on an energy transformation strategy. One model may involve replacing nuclear and coal with renewable energy sources, as advocated by Germany. However, a solution assuming the simultaneous development of nuclear, gas, and renewable energy would be more beneficial for Ukraine. (5 p.)

CASE - CENTER FOR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC RESEARCH

EU's Unilateral Trade Liberalisation for Belarusian Services

by Sierż Naūrodski

The policy paper aims at offering a complementary solution to the EU EUR 24 million assistance package to support SMEs in Belarus by suggesting the introduction of unilateral trade liberalisation measures for the country's services sector. The author builds on the EU's experience in the Western Balkans to

suggest potential political and economic rationales for the EU to unilaterally liberalise trade in services with Belarus, without any legal limitations or negative implications under the legal frameworks of the EU, the Eurasian Economic Union or the WTO. (22 p.)

INSTITUT FÜR EUROPÄISCHE POLITIK (INSTITUTE FOR EUROPEAN POLITICS)

One Year after the Presidential Election in Belarus: Germany's role and policy recommendations for the political crisis in Belarus

by Katrin Boettger  [@Boettger_IEP](#) et al.

Over the past twelve months, protests against Alyaksandr Lukashenka have continued while political relations between the EU and Belarus have deteriorated significantly. The crisis remains high on the EU agenda due to the aggressive policies and rhetoric of the Belarusian authorities. However, despite EU sanctions, little has been achieved to change the situation in the country. The authors argue that Belarus's membership within the Eastern Partnership should remain open, with a stronger focus on cooperation with civil society and the diaspora in Europe. (6 p.)

EXPERT GROUP

Guidelines for the EU: Modeling a resilience-building mechanism for Moldova and "Association Trio"

by Denis Cenusă

The current policy brief presents a set of guidelines ("mechanisms") that aim to facilitate the injection of the resilience logic into the actions of the EU towards one of the Eastern Partnership countries - Moldova. The policy brief proposes several underlying principles for the EU to apply in promoting resilience in Moldova (and the "Association Trio" as a whole) – smart conditionality, ex-post assessment and continuity of reform. Secondly, it looks at three fundamental pillars that should be at the heart of the resilience efforts from the side of the EU – rule of law, institutions and critical infrastructure. The third section designs a resilience-building mechanism that aims to recalibrate and refine the existing EU toolbox, avoiding reinventing the wheel. (9 p.)

MIDDLE EAST / NORTH AFRICA (MENA)

DEUTSCHES INSTITUT FÜR
ENTWICKLUNGSPOLITIK (GERMAN
DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE)

Focussing European cooperation with the Middle East and North Africa on social contracts

by Mark Furness [@MPFurness](#) et al.

The EU has long struggled with conflicting objectives in the MENA region, especially liberal-democratic political and economic reforms, and restrictive trade practices, migration management, and security cooperation. Focussing cooperation on the social contract offers a way out of these dilemmas according to this paper. (4 p.)

РОССИЙСКИЙ СОВЕТ ПО
МЕЖДУНАРОДНЫМ ДЕЛАМ (RUSSIAN
INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS COUNCIL)

Political Risks for Russian-Egyptian Cooperation in North Africa

by Andrey Kortunov et al.

This report aims to analyze political risks for Russian-Egyptian Cooperation in North Africa and summarizes joint findings by experts from the Russian International Affairs Council (RIAC) and the Egyptian Council for Foreign Affairs (ECFA). Russia and Egypt have important stakes in the region; both are actively engaged in international efforts to provide for peace and stability in North Africa. (66 p.)

РОССИЙСКИЙ СОВЕТ ПО
МЕЖДУНАРОДНЫМ ДЕЛАМ (RUSSIAN
INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS COUNCIL)

International Assistance to the Middle East and North Africa: Managing the risks

by Vladimir Bartenev

This report examines the ins and outs of providing international assistance to the Arab countries of the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) through the prism of risk management. It provides an evaluation of the original typology of the risks associated with

the provision of external support and reveals the main endogenous and exogenous risk factors that determined the specifics of international assistance extended to the MENA countries in the 2010s after the Arab Spring. (106 p.)

EUROPEAN COUNCIL ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

People before politicians: How Europeans can help rebuild Lebanon

by Carmen Geha [@CarmenGeha](#)

This paper calls for the EU to pursue an approach that supports bottom-up humanitarian and stabilisation efforts. Such a focus will, in time, enable wider reform to take place. By providing support and advocating for the election to take place as promised, the EU would help facilitate the emergence of reform-minded politicians who could challenge and change the system from within. (19 p.)

FUNDACIÓN ALTERNATIVAS

Aproximación prospectiva a la Vecindad Sur de España y la Unión Europea: Objetivo 2030/2050

by Itxaso Domínguez [@itxasdo](#) et al.

The Barcelona Process initiated a moment of reflection and singularisation of EU and Spanish policies towards the Mediterranean. This article analyses in depth and prospectively the Southern Neighbourhood with the horizons of 2030 and 2050. It proposes long-term and proactive strategies at the national and EU levels in order to contribute to the inclusive, sustainable and democratic development of the region's societies. (ES – 136 p.)

NEW AMERICA FOUNDATION

Soleimani's shadow: The Fatemiyoun division & Iran's proxy warfare propaganda

by Amir Toumaj [@AmirToumaj](#) et al.

Thousands of ethnic Afghan foreign fighters with the Iranian-backed Fatemiyoun Division and Zeynabiyoun Brigade have fought and died in Syria's civil war. This report assesses

how Iran made Afghan and Pakistani Shia marginalization in South Asia an effective tool for its proxy wars and analyses the narratives of its propaganda. (107 p.)

**BARCELONA CENTRE FOR
INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS / REAL
INSTITUTO EL CANO / FRIEDRICH
NAUMANN FOUNDATION MADRID**

A moment to reflect: Creating Euro-Mediterranean bonds that deliver

by Haizam Amirah-Fernández [@HaizamAmirah](#) et al. (eds.)

The 25th anniversary of the Barcelona Process presented a timely moment to assess the past and to explore new opportunities for stronger bonds between both shores of the Mediterranean. This report brings together analyses and testimonies by experts from different professional domains. It highlights best practices and provide new ideas for a constructive and future-oriented Euro-Mediterranean relationship in a post-covid era. (108 p.)

**EUROPEAN INSTITUTE OF THE
MEDITERRANEAN / EURO-
MEDITERRANEAN STUDY COMMISSION**

Great expectations: defining a trans-Mediterranean cybersecurity agenda

by Patryk Pawlak [@patrykpawlak](#) (ed.)

EU cooperation on cybersecurity with the Middle East and North Africa region is conditioned by the willingness to engage in closer cooperation and by the need for a cautious approach due the situation on the ground. The study analyses whether the initiatives and policies implemented in the region are compatible with EU interests and values. It also explores the key cybersecurity multipliers in the region that could be aligned with the EU and which of these relationships are sufficiently mature. (85 p.)

**CHATHAM HOUSE - THE ROYAL
INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS**

Bahrain's transnational Arab Spring: repression, oil and human rights activism

by Jessie Moritz [@JessieMoritz](#)

Studies of the Middle East following the Arab Spring have concluded that 'repression works', especially in the oil- and gas-rich countries of the Gulf. This article nuances the 'repression effect' by tracing the emergence of a transnational Bahraini opposition, mapping the relationships and joint activities between domestic and exiled Bahraini groups, international NGOs and western policy-makers. (19 p.)

WESTERN BALKANS

**CENTAR ZA EVROPSKE POLITIKE
(EUROPEAN POLICY CENTRE)**

The Future of the EU in the Western Balkans... and the Future of the Western Balkans in the EU

This paper explores pertinent questions regarding the future of the EU in the Western Balkans and vice versa. After providing a brief overview and analysis of the current state of the enlargement process, the paper explores how the impact of the recently revised enlargement methodology can be maximised. It also looks at opportunities for deepening the ties between the EU and the region, going beyond the formal accession process and procedures. (7 p.)

**CENTAR ZA EVROPSKE POLITIKE
(EUROPEAN POLICY CENTRE)**

The Western Balkans and the COVID-19: Effects on good governance, rule of law and civil society

by Alban Dafa et al.

This policy brief underscores outstanding issues that emerged during the COVID-19 crisis with possible long-term consequences on the functioning of democracy and rule of law in the six countries of the Western Balkans – Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia, and Serbia. (16 p.)

ISTITUTO AFFARI INTERNAZIONALI

In search of EU strategic autonomy: what role for the Western Balkans?

by Matteo Bonomi (ed.)

The paper argues that the Western Balkans risk being pushed to the margins of the EU integration project by covid-19 pandemic, becoming increasingly an enclave of economic hardships, social tensions and unsettled conflicts. The ongoing debate on EU strategic autonomy offers a point of reference to analyse the subject, to assess both the state of play and the limits of current UE-WB partnerships, and to verify the ambitions of the EU to effectively assert itself as a strategically autonomous actor in the years to come. (41 p.)

REAL INSTITUTO ELCANO

El futuro de la ampliación de la UE en los Balcanes Occidentales

by Mira Milosevich-Juaristi [@MiraMilosevich1](#)

The text examines the state of play of the EU accession process in the Western Balkans, considering the process to be bogged down by 'enlargement fatigue', 'Balkan fatigue' (disillusionment) and the increased influence of Russia and China. The Slovenian presidency could be an opportunity to reinvent and revive the accession process. (ES – 7 p.)

GROUP FOR LEGAL AND POLITICAL STUDIES

The EU and the Western Balkans: Covid-19 travel bans and the socio-economic trade-offs explained

by Nicasia Picciano

The author investigates the Covid-19 pandemic through the lens of closed borders and their magnified economic effects on less developed states, particularly the Western Balkans and Kosovo. These stricken nations will have a more difficult recovery period due to the external travel bans, postulates the brief, and the European Union need also place more geostrategic importance on the region. (29 p.)

LSE IDEAS

The-Dragon-Lands-in-Belgrade

by Vuk Vuksanovic [@v_vuksanovic](#)

From 'vaccine diplomacy' to 'debt-trap diplomacy', this Strategic Update examines the Sino-Serbian partnership we are witnessing and what the future has in store for Serbian policymakers. (26 p.)

DEMOCRACY FOR DEVELOPMENT (D4D)

Kosovo's Track to Europeanization: Moving beyond top-down mechanisms

by Anette Sonnback [@ASonnback](#) et al.

By utilising the leverage of conditionality, the influence of the EU in Kosovo has been witnessed in many areas, driving its path towards Europeanisation. However, the reformist power of conditionality has been seen to weaken and many challenges remain on Kosovo's reform path. This policy brief outlines these challenges and identifies flaws with the current application of conditionality as a top-down approach. It further provides an insight on how Germany's role could be enhanced in order to overcome current impasses. (32 p.)*

TURKEY

EUROPEAN COUNCIL ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

New energies: How the European Green Deal can save the EU's relationship with Turkey

by Asli Aydintaşbaş [@asliaydintasbas](#)

This paper briefly outlines the state of play in EU-Turkey relations, and the different challenges on the table, before suggesting how cooperation on the implementation of the European Green Deal could – if handled carefully – provide openings on a number of fronts. (16 p.)

* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence.

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT THINK TANK

The EU-Turkey Customs Union and trade relations: what options for the future?

by Erdal Yalcin [@ProfErdalYalcin](#) et al.

This in-depth analysis summarizes the main effects of the Customs Union on EU-Turkey trade and the economic situation in Turkey. Against the background of the dynamic development of EU-Turkey relations, the authors assess the impact of four different options for developing EU-Turkey economic and trade relations: (i) Continuation of the current Customs Union framework as it stands; (ii) Modernization and upgrading of the Customs Union; (iii) A transformation of the bilateral trade relations into a deep and comprehensive free trade agreement; (iv) Suspension of the Customs Union. (34 p.)

RUSSIA

RAHVUSVAHELINE KAITSEUURINGUTE KESKUS (INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR DEFENCE AND SECURITY)

Dialogue with Russia: Russia needs to reset relations with the west

by Kalev Stoicescu et al.

This report analyses Western-Russian relations and proposes a way forward for conducting dialogue with Russia. It offers an analysis of Russia's relations with NATO and the EU, an overview of the bilateral relations of various Western countries with Russia, a glimpse of China's role, and an assessment of the main interests and contentious issues in Western-Russian relations. (85 p.)

EUROPEAN UNION INSTITUTE FOR SECURITY STUDIES

Fire and ice: the Russian-Turkish partnership

by Stanislav Secieru [@StasSecieru](#) et al.

This paper provides an in-depth analysis of the Russian-Turkish partnership. It explores the dynamics underpinning the relationship and looks at how it is likely to evolve in the coming years. (70 p.)

CHINA

EUROPEAN POLICY CENTRE

Lost in translation? The comprehensive agreement on investment and EU-China trade relations

by Guillaume Van der Loo [@GuillaumeVdLoo](#)

The Comprehensive Agreement on Investment between the EU and China may not hold much effect, according to the author's analysis of faltering cash flows brought on by human rights sanctions imposed on the latter. After inspecting the myriad provisions of the CAI, the policy brief examines the wider context of the agreement, concluding that the numerous incompatibilities between European and Chinese financial systems, while significant, do not preclude an eventual reconciliation. In the meantime, the author advises the EU to invest resources towards ventures more compatible with European values namely, the WTO and Transatlantic relations. (20 p.)

CENTRE FOR STRATEGIC AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

The changing Nature and Implications of Russian Military Transfers to China

by Paul N. Schwartz

This paper examines the growing military convergence between Russia and China while enhancing their strategic partnership. (8 p.)

THE HAGUE CENTRE FOR STRATEGIC STUDIES

A Chinese Perspective on the Future of Cyberspace

by Xu Peixi

This article firstly discusses how China perceives external threats, and observes that history or sovereignty is China's dominant perspective about cybersecurity. Then, it points out the fact that China is the most dependent country on the digital economy, and development is the dominant perspective in that field. It argues that China's worldview about cyberspace is reflected in its Confucian and Daoist

traditions, and recommends a transnational and pluralistic approach to looking at cyberspace. It concludes with an analysis of several developing cyber norms. (11 p.)

EUROPEAN COUNCIL ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Fish and ships: Chinese fishing and Europe's Indo-Pacific strategy

by Frédéric Grare

This paper examines the reasons and policies that led China to become a threat to marine biodiversity, as well as its role in IUU fishing. The paper also analyses China's use of its fishing fleet to achieve its strategic objectives and examines the overall impact of Chinese fisheries policies on Europe's interests. Finally, it identifies some potential directions for a proactive European policy on fisheries in the Indo-Pacific. (15 p.)

GERMAN COUNCIL ON FOREIGN RELATIONS (DGAP)

Withstanding the Storm: Digital Silk Road, Covid-19 and Europe's Options

by Tyson Barker [@tysonbarker](#)

As a pillar of the Belt and Road Initiative, the Digital Silk Road has been an important component of China's quest for digital sovereignty. This report outlines how COVID-19 has affected Chinese ambitions to use the Digital Silk Road as a geopolitical tool and which consequences arise both in a global context and for the EU. It argues that the EU must address Chinese authoritarian dominance on technology more directly. (31 p.)

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

China vs. US: The Green Energy Race Overview of China's and America's green investment plan and what that means for the future of fossil fuels

by Katharine Kláčanský

This policy paper discusses the role of climate in geopolitics and provides an overview of the Chinese and American green investment plan

and its implications for the future of fossil fuels. The author calls on global renewable energy leaders such as China and the United States to collaborate more closely by building a competitive sustainable energy platform, along with its global partners such as the European Union. (17 p.)

ISTITUTO PER GLI STUDI DI POLITICA INTERNAZIONALE

China after covid-19: Economic revival and challenges to the world

by Alessia Amighini [@aaamigh](#) (ed.)

This Report examines how China designed and implemented its post-Covid recovery strategy. It suggests that, despite China having lost economic and political capital during the crisis, Beijing seems to have been strengthened by the "pandemic test", thus becoming an even more challenging "partner, competitor and rival" for Western countries. (184 p.)

UNITED KINGDOM / BREXIT

EUROPEAN UNION INSTITUTE FOR SECURITY STUDIES

Fog in Channel? The impact of Brexit on EU and UK foreign affairs

by Amelia Hadfield [@ameliahadfield1](#) et al.

Economic aspects of Brexit have dominated the debate but the split has also had a profound impact on the EU and UK foreign affairs. This brief looks at the challenges and opportunities for the EU and UK in term of reputation, responsibility, resources and relevance. (8 p.)

EUROPEAN POLICY CENTRE

EU-UK climate cooperation post Brexit: A case for optimism?

by Jannike Wachowiak

The British separation from the European Union left plenty of unresolved questions, but shared core values still prevail. This policy brief theorizes that multilateral UK-EU climate change efforts appear likely (though logistically challenging), and the author

additionally offers edits to the TCA agreement to facilitate future UK involvement. (4 p.)

POLSKI INSTYTUT SPRAW MIĘDZYNARODOWYCH (THE POLISH INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS)

The Crisis of the Northern Ireland Political System and EU-UK Relations

by Przemysław Biskup

In the context of the political crisis in Northern Ireland and the increase of the likelihood of snap elections before the ones scheduled for May 2022, the policy paper predicts that the campaign will be dominated by the Irish border issue, the EU-UK trade dispute and post-pandemic economic problems. It offers recommendations regarding the role of the EU in the stabilisation of the situation. (6 p.)

EUROPEAN POLICY CENTRE

After Brexit: Could bilateral agreements facilitate the free movement of persons?

by Diego Acosta  [@Dacostalaw](#)

Brexit suddenly curtailed the free movement of persons between two deeply entrenched areas, the United Kingdom and the Schengen Zone. Such restrictions will necessitate eventual negotiations for bilateral movement agreements for each EU member nation. The author's policy recommendations put forward Spain as the first individual candidate to set a stable example and encourage other EU member states to initiate their own, adapting existing frameworks with new provisions. (16 p.)

CENTRE FOR POLICY STUDIES

Reshaping spaces: building back better

by Alex Morton et al.

The Covid-19 pandemic sparked an unprecedented switch towards remote work, though not all industries were equally impacted; retail and commercial employment continues to suffer at greater rates. This review proposes a series of physical, political and financial refurbishment of local UK businesses. (47 p.)

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT THINK TANK

What are the main differences between the practice of supervising large banks in the UK and in the euro area, and what are the main risks of regulatory divergence?

by Rainer Haselmann  [@HaselmannRainer](#) et al.

This in-depth analysis, requested by the EP's Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs, provides evidence on differences in the practice of supervising large banks in the UK and in the euro area. It identifies the diverging institutional architecture (partially supranationalised vs. national oversight) as a pivotal determinant for a higher effectiveness of supervisory decision making in the UK. The ECB is likely to take a more stringent stance in prudential supervision than UK authorities. (31 p.)

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NEW AMERICA FOUNDATION

Teaching cyber citizenship: bridging education and national security to build resilience to new online threats

by Peter Warren Singer et al.

This report makes the case for building greater resilience against the growing problems of misinformation and disinformation in the USA by equipping teachers and students with the tools and skills they need. It finds "cyber citizenship" as a conceptual intersection that draws together groups in very different fields. (44 p.)

LSE IDEAS

Facing-A-Strategic-Endgame

by Christopher Coker

The author considers that the disastrous strategic failures by the US in the past 30 years can be explained by its failure to understand what strategy actually is and how ambiguity lies at its heart. As a result, it has stumbled from crisis to crisis. The author argues that there is no reason to think that the US is any better placed under Biden to address the challenges of a 'post-hegemonic' world. (24 p.)

SECTION 4 - EU MEMBER STATES



BULGARIA

**ЦЕНТЪР ЗА ИЗСЛЕДВАНЕ НА
ДЕМОКРАЦИЯТА (CENTER FOR THE
STUDY OF DEMOCRACY)**

Green recovery pathways to Bulgaria's carbon neutrality by 2050

The EU's 2021 – 2027 Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF), boosted by its NextGenerationEU (NGEU) recovery plan, is the largest “green stimulus package” in European history. Bulgaria is among the countries that stand to benefit the most from this assistance, yet its policymakers and public administration must now demonstrate leadership and implement bold policy ideas to deliver on this promise. This policy brief aims to contribute to the development of a consistent green recovery strategy for Bulgaria in line with the objectives of the European Green Deal (16 p.).

**ЦЕНТЪР ЗА ИЗСЛЕДВАНЕ НА
ДЕМОКРАЦИЯТА (CENTER FOR THE
STUDY OF DEMOCRACY)**

Overcoming Youth Vulnerabilities to Far-Right Narratives

Over the past decade, European countries have experienced a resurgence of far-right extremism and the internet has played an important role in facilitating this growth, being a potent tool for the spread of extremist propaganda, especially among youth. Bulgaria is among the EU states affected. This policy brief discusses the opportunities that strategic communication brings as a tool to counteracting violent narratives and

achieving resilience among youth, detailing the results of the first alternative narrative campaign, *Find Another Way*, carried out in Bulgaria in 2020-2021. (8 p.)

ESTONIA

**RAHVUSVAHELINE KAITSEUURINGUTE
KESKUS (INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR
DEFENCE AND SECURITY)**

Estonia's interests and opportunities in the Arctic

by Tõnis Idarand et al.

This paper offers an overview of Estonia's interests and opportunities in the Arctic, focusing on regional cooperation, security, research, the protection of the rights of indigenous peoples, and the transport and logistics, ICT and space industries. (18 p.)

FINLAND

**ULKOPOLIITTINEN INSTITUUTTI (FINNISH
INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS)**

Suurvaltojen Arktis: muuttuvan geopolitiikan vaikutukset Suomen ulko- ja turvallisuuspolitiikkaan

by Samu Paukkunen et al.

This study identifies the Arctic interests of the great powers analyzing the area as a geo- and military-strategic operating environment. It analyzes the economy and the role of international cooperation in the region. Finally it assesses the effects of changes in security policy in the region on Finland's national security and Arctic policy. (FI – 25 p.)

GERMANY

**INSTITUT DER DEUTSCHEN WIRTSCHAFT
KÖLN (GERMAN ECONOMIC INSTITUTE)**

Status quo der Künstlichen Intelligenz in Deutschland: KI-Monitor 2021

by Jan Büche et al.

This study measures the status quo and development of AI in Germany and develops policy recommendations based on this. (DE – 66 p.)

IRELAND

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Exploring the Impact of COVID-19 and Recovery Paths for the Economy

by Abian Garcia-Rodriguez et al.

Ireland, like the rest of the European Union and greater international community, suffered a massive hit to their economy during the Covid-19 pandemic as a result of internal and external lockdowns. As the third wave crests over Europe, the Irish government considers which financial remedies are worth pursuing based on constantly-changing data. This working paper utilizes economic simulations to formulate 'upside', 'downside', and 'reported' scenarios and solutions, depending on future re-openings, stagnation, and lockdowns respectively. (20 p.)

especialmente Daesh, have maintained this presence in times of pandemic, allowing radicalisation and propaganda to be strengthened. The study analyses its characteristics and the peculiarities of the Spanish case. (ES – 21 p.)

FUNDACIÓN ALTERNATIVAS

Los efectos de revolución digital en el futuro del trabajo

by Eva M. de la Torre et al.

This report examines the characteristics of the productive fabric and the labour market in Spain, considering three types of barriers to access to technology: access, use and competition. The aim is to examine the magnitude of these barriers at the macroeconomic level and to identify actions for Spain to successfully join the digital revolution, with the human capital to do so. (ES – 80 p.)

LATVIA

LATVIJAS ĀRPOLITIKAS INSTITŪTS (LATVIAN INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS)

Gas and Dirty Money. Russian Corrosive Capital in Latvia

by Evija Džatkoviča

The publication project investigates Russia's malign economic influence exploited for political purposes in the Baltic states, Latvia in particular. The paper screens energy, transport and logistics, and finance sector and provides recommendations for reducing corrosive capital and attracting productive capital to Latvia. (34 p.)

SPAIN

INSTITUTO ESPAÑOL DE ESTUDIOS ESTRATÉGICOS

Tendencias online de la propaganda yihadista: Análisis del caso español

by Sandra López Gómez et al.

The jihadist phenomenon uses common patterns at the international level, namely a constant online presence. These groups,



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

Southeast European demographic overview I: Bulgaria, Croatia, Romania, and Serbia

by Julianna Ármás et al.

Southeast Europe faces depopulation: low birth rates and large-scale emigration foreshadow a dire image for the region's demographic future. This policy brief looks at why the family support and demographic incentives launched to increase fertility rates have not shown tangible results yet, while significant emigration to Western Europe points to deeper structural problems. (13 p.)

CORPORATE EUROPE OBSERVATORY / CORPORATE ACCOUNTABILITY / GLOBAL FOREST COALITION / FRIENDS OF THE EARTH INTERNATIONAL / INSTITUTE FOR POLICY STUDIES

The Big Con: how big polluters are advancing a “net zero” climate agenda to delay, deceive, and deny

by Jesse Bragg et al.

The report summarises the available details of 17 big polluters' “net zero” climate commitments and business plans across a range of industries. (24 p.)

STIFTUNG MARKTWIRTSCHAFT

EU-Taxonomie: Nachhaltigkeit oder grüner Schein?

by Jörg König [@ Joerg Koenig](#)

The taxonomy regulation, which came into force in July 2020, should be critically viewed

for at least four reasons according to this short study. (DE – 4 p.)

ISTITUTO PER GLI STUDI DI POLITICA INTERNAZIONALE

The scramble for the Eastern Mediterranean: Energy and geopolitics

by Valeria Talbot (ed.)

Over the past few years, the Eastern Mediterranean has become a major hotspot for both natural gas and geopolitical competition. This Report examines the strategy and the plethora of interests of regional and international players, as well as the interplay between cooperative and competitive dynamics in the region. (147 p.)

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The global quest for sustainability: The role of green infrastructure in a post-pandemic world

by Carlo Secchi et al. (eds)

In the aftermath of the pandemic, global demand for infrastructure is booming, seen as a means for a resurgence in public expenditure and economic growth. Decarbonisation and digitalisation will be underpinning this investment. This report analyses the challenges and opportunities as well as various scenarios and policies for infrastructure development. (281 p.)

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The Future of the International System Messy Multilateralism, Networked Technology, and Pioneering Innovation

by Heather A. Conley (ed.)

Old strategic doctrines and methods both restrain new thinking and are increasingly ineffectual—as climate diplomacy has demonstrated. To be successful in the new international system, the authors suggest that it is likely that we will renegotiate traditional multilateral approaches, a reality that reflects changing domestic political requirements and greater integration of other important stakeholders. (19 p.)