The EU's Eastern Partnership

The European Union and its Eastern Partnership neighbours hold their fifth summit on 24 November 2017, to take stock of the eight-year-old cooperation programme and map ways to strengthen political and economic ties. The Eastern Partnership is a regional programme of the European Neighbourhood Policy, aimed at promoting closer cooperation between the European Union, its Member States, and Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine. It has achieved progress, such as association agreements and visa-free regimes with Moldova, Georgia and Ukraine, albeit limited by the conflicts and political instability in the region. The programme signals the EU’s willingness to reinforce ties with the region, offering incentives to governments and civil society to push ahead with democratic and economic reforms.

This note offers links to recent commentaries and reports by major international think tanks on the Eastern Partnership and the countries it embraces. More reports on the topic can be found in a previous edition of 'What Think Tanks are Thinking' published in November 2016.

General issues

The fifth Eastern Partnership Summit: Between hyperbole and understatement
Centre for European Policy Studies, November 2017

Easing the EU’s Eastern Partnership fatigue
European Council on Foreign Relations, November 2017

Implementing the EU Association Agreements with Ukraine, Georgia, and Moldova
Carnegie Europe, November 2017

Abandoning the Eastern Partnership would be a terrible act of self-harm for Poland
Chatham House, November 2017

Eastern voices: Is the West listening?
Deutsche Gesellschaft für Auswärtige Politik, November 2017

The obsolescence of the European Neighbourhood Policy
Centre for European Policy Studies, October 2017

The integration dilemma in the EU’s Eastern Partnership region
East-West Institute, October 2017

Partners for life: Europe’s unanswered ‘eastern question’
European Council on Foreign Relations, October 2017

The visa-free 3D effect: Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine
EUISS, October 2017

NATO’s limits: A new security architecture for Eastern Europe
International Institute for Strategic Studies, September 2017
Five things to know about the Zapad-2017 military exercise
Chatham House, September 2017

How the EU needs to manage relations with its Eastern Neighborhood
Carnegie Europe, August 2017

Is 'hybrid geopolitics' the next EU foreign policy doctrine?
Carnegie Europe, June 2017

Reindustrialise Eastern Europe? Perspectives of progressive economic policy in the countries of the Eastern Partnership, Russia and Germany
Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, June 2017

Oligarchs in Ukraine, Moldova and Georgia as key obstacles to reforms
Expert Grup, June 2017

Energy, Russian influence and democratic backsliding in Central and Eastern Europe: A comparative assessment and case studies from Belarus, Ukraine, Moldova, Hungary, Romania
Expert Grup, May 2017

Contested space: Eastern Europe between Russia and the EU
Centre for European Reform, March 2017

Assessing the European Neighbourhood Policy: Perspectives from the literature
Centre for European Policy Studies, February 2017

Frontiers of democracy: Embedding democratic values in Central and Eastern Europe - Good practices and limits of transferability
Center for European Neighborhood Studies, January 2017

The Russian Federation’s new foreign policy concept
Polish Institute of International Affairs, January 2017

Border security in Eastern Europe: Lessons for NATO and partners
German Marshall Fund of the United States, January 2017

Ukraine

Make laws not war: Ukrainian president and parliament push for peace resolution in Donbas
European Council on Foreign Relations, October 2017

How to lose Russia in 10(0) days: Ukraine’s delicate balance
EUROPEUM, October 2017

Europe seen from Ukraine
European Council on Foreign Relations, September 2017

Ukraine’s unfinished reform agenda
Bruegel, September 2017

The great decommunisation: Ukraine’s wartime historical policy
Centre for Eastern Studies, September 2017

Humanitarian access and local organisations in Ukraine
Overseas Development Institute, September 2017
Ukraine’s new diplomatic battlefronts: U.S. weapons, UN peacekeepers
International Crisis Group, September 2017

Is Ukraine losing its way?
Carnegie Europe, September 2017

Ukraine ‘experts’ in the West and Putin’s military aggression: A new academic ‘orientalism’?
Center for Transatlantic Relations, Cicero Foundation, September 2017

First on the front lines: The role of volunteers in countering Russia’s military aggression against Ukraine
International Centre for Defence Studies, August 2017

The aftermath of the crisis: An overhaul of Ukraine's banking sector
Centre for Eastern Studies, July 2017

The crisis over Ukraine three years on: Is a “grand bargain” totally ruled out?
Finnish Institute of International Affairs, May 2017

New ‘borders’ in Eastern Europe: Ukraine since the annexation of Crimea and the outbreak of the conflict in the Donbass
Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, April 2017

From fiscal austerity towards growth-enhancing fiscal policy in Ukraine
Wiener Institut für Internationale Wirtschaftsvergleiche, April 2017

The prospects of freezing the conflict in Donbas
Polish Institute of International Affairs, March 2017

International peacekeeping and the war in Eastern Ukraine: Are there any points of contact? Preventive diplomacy, peacemaking, peacekeeping and peacebuilding in the settlement of the "Ukrainian conflict"
International Centre for Policy Studies, February 2017

Mission Ukraine: Normative or strategic objectives?
College of Europe, February 2017

Other countries

Moldova’s future: East, West, or somewhere in the middle?
German Marshall Fund, October 2017

The Financial Monitor 5: An analysis of main reforms in the financial sector of Moldova
Expert Grup, July 2017

Adapting the 2030 Agenda on sustainable development to the context of the Republic of Moldova
Expert Grup, July 2017

Moldova’s proposed electoral change is a blow to democracy: The EU must oppose it
Chatham House, May 2017

President Dodon’s visit to Brussels: Contemplating economic suicide
Centre for European Policy Studies, February 2017

Belarus’s disequilibrium: Mounting challenges and reluctance to change
Finnish Institute of International Affairs, June 2017

Belarus et Russie : Divorce en cours
Groupe de Recherche et d’Information sur la Paix et la Sécurité, February 2017
EU-Armenian relations: Charting a fresh course
Centre for European Policy Studies, November 2017

Bolshevik squabbles still shape the Caucasus
Carnegie Europe, November 2017

No dream in Georgia?
Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik, November 2017

Iran’s Azerbaijan question in evolution: identity, society, and regional security
Central Asia-Caucasus Institute and Silk Road Studies Program, September 2017

EU region-building in the neighbourhood: The Eastern Partnership’s contribution in the South Caucasus
College of Europe, April 2017

Whither the South Caucasus?
Carnegie Europe, March 2017

Status-neutral security, confidence-building and arms control measures in the Georgian context
Institut für Friedensforschung und Sicherheitspolitik an der Universität Hamburg, January 2017