

2018: Challenges and choices

After 2017 brought optimism for the European Union, 2018 has proved a year of tougher challenges and choices. It was a time of slower growth, with the spectre of a global trade war. Turbulent negotiations on Brexit brought an agreement, but the chances of its approval by the UK House of Commons look unpromising. It was a year of uncertainty for transatlantic ties and for US global leadership. Tensions re-emerged over migration. Progress in overhauling the euro-area was limited. The simmering Russia-Ukrainian conflict erupted again. These and other developments form the backdrop for the European elections in 2019.

This note offers links to recent selected **commentaries, studies and reports from major international think tanks** on the state of the EU in 2018 and its outlook in several important areas.

Brexit

[The proposed UK-EU Brexit deal: An explainer](#)

Open Europe, December 2018

[Le Brexit dans tous ses états](#)

Institut français des relations internationales, December 2018

[Brexit brief: Special edition](#)

Institute of International and European Affairs, November 2018

[New research shows economic and fiscal consequences of the Brexit deal](#)

The UK in a Changing Europe, November 2018

[The November Draft Withdrawal Agreement](#)

Institute for Government, November 2018

[The Brexit deal and the UK-EU security relationship](#)

DCU Brexit Institute, November 2018

[What happens if Parliament rejects May's Brexit deal?](#)

Centre for European Reform, November 2018

[What impact would a No Deal Brexit have on European Parliament elections?](#)

Institut Jacques Delors, November 2018

[LSE blog: Brexit](#)

London School of Economics, November 2018

[Brexit: Next steps in UK's withdrawal from the EU](#)

House of Commons Library, 2018

[More think tank papers on Brexit](#)

What think tanks are thinking, EPRS, December 2018

Trump and trade

[Trump, Xi reach trade war truce... for now](#)

Atlantic Council, December 2018

[The Trump-Xi meeting at G-20: Kicking the can down the road](#)

Rand Corporation, December 2018

[What the 2018 \(and 2020\) elections mean for U.S. trade policy](#)

European Centre for International Political Economy, December 2018

[What might a Trump withdrawal from the World Trade Organization mean for US tariffs?](#)

Peterson Institute of International Economics, November 2018

[Consequences of U.S. trade policy on EU-U.S. trade relations and the global trading system](#)

German Marshall Fund, November 2018

[Disciplining China's trade practices at the WTO: How WTO complaints can help make China more market-oriented](#)

Cato Institute, November 2018

[The EU response to US trade tariffs](#)

Bruegel, October 2018

[Crisis in the WTO: Restoring the dispute settlement function](#)

Centre for International Government Innovation, October 2018

[How the United States should confront China without threatening the global trading system](#)

Peterson Institute of International Economics, August 2018

[Power in the international trading system: Trump Administration risks destroying world trade order](#)

Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik, July 2018

[More papers on Trump's presidency, trade and international policies](#)

What think tanks are thinking, EPRS, September 2018

Foreign policy, defence

[New realities in foreign affairs: Diplomacy in the 21st century](#)

Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik, December 2018

[American climate leadership without American government](#)

Brookings Institution, December 2018

[Strategic autonomy: Towards 'European sovereignty' in defence?](#)

European Union Institute for Security Studies, November 2018

[Western countries must rethink how to deter Russian aggression against Ukraine](#)

Chatham House, December 2018

[The EU and NATO: A partnership with a glass ceiling](#)

Istituto Affari Internazionali, December 2018

[From the Azov Sea to Washington DC: How Russophobia became Russia's leading export](#)

Atlantic Council, November 2018

[Under the gun: Rearmament for arms control in Europe](#)

European Council on Foreign Relations, November 2018

[Fighting terrorism and radicalisation in Europe's neighbourhood: How to scale up EU efforts](#)

European Policy Centre, Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, November 2018

[NATO in the Trump era: Surviving the crisis](#)

Clingendael, September 2018

[The Trump administration's National Security Strategy](#)

Real Instituto Elcano, July 2018

[More think tank papers on global trends](#)

What think tanks are thinking, EPRS, December 2018

[More think tanks papers on climate](#)

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[More think tank papers on China](#)

What think tanks are thinking, EPRS, September 2018

[More think tank papers on Russia](#)

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[More think tank papers on NATO](#)

What think tanks are thinking, EPRS, July 2018

EMU reform, economy, institutions

[Euro area reform: An anatomy of the debate](#)

Centre for Economic Policy Research, Bruegel, November 2018

[The European Parliament after the elections](#)

Clingendael, November 2018

[European fiscal rules require a major overhaul](#)

Bruegel, October 2018

[Reform of the international monetary system and new global economic governance: How the EU may contribute](#)

Egmont, October 2018

[The Italian budget: A case of contractionary fiscal expansion?](#)

Peterson Institute for International Economics, October 2018

[European Parliament elections 2019: The litmus test for the Spitzenkandidaten process](#)

Centre for European Reform, December 2018

[ESM reform: No need to reinvent the wheel](#)

Jacques Delors Institut, Bertelsmann Stiftung, August 2018

[Competing visions of Europe are threatening to tear the Union apart](#)

Chatham House, August 2018

[Europe's surprising economic success story](#)

Centre for European Policy Studies, July 2018

[The future of the Economic and Monetary Union](#)

Swedish Institute for European Policy Studies, Clingendael, June 2018

[More think tanks papers on EMU reform](#)

What think tanks are thinking, EPRS, November 2018

[More think tanks papers on the State of the Union](#)

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Migration

[The Global Compact for Migration and the EU: Global effects of a regional backlash](#)

Istituto per gli Studi di Politica Internazionale, December 2018

[À propos du Pacte mondial pour des migrations sûres, ordonnées et régulières](#)

Institut des relations internationales et stratégiques, October 2018

[EU migration policies in the Sahel-stagnation in a mode of crisis](#)

Clingendael, December 2018

[Three years into the refugee displacement crisis](#)

German Marshall Fund, December 2018

[For a European policy on asylum, migration and mobility](#)

Institut Jacques Delors, November 2018

[EU migration policy bears no relation to reality](#)

Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik, November 2018

[In search of a new equilibrium: Immigration policymaking in the newest era of nativist populism](#)

Migration Policy Institute, November 2018

[It's not a refugee crisis: It's a crisis of shrinking humanity and inequality](#)

Friends of Europe, November 2018

[Reforming Europe's refugee policies: Austrian-Danish plan will not work](#)

Centre for European Policy Studies, October 2018

[State of play in the debate on migration management in Europe](#)
Clingendael, October 2018

[More think tanks papers on migration](#)
What think tanks are thinking, EPRS, December 2018

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