The European Union: A year of hope

The self-confidence of the European Union improved markedly during the past year after the 'annus horribilis' of 2016 when the EU faced a ‘poly-crisis’ of a shaky euro-area economy, the Brexit vote, the election of Donald Trump as US President, migration pressures, growing Russian assertiveness and apparent foreign-policy drift.

The euro-area economy has since entered onto a clear recovery path, popular support for the EU has increased in many countries, Eurosceptic political parties have made smaller than expected gains in several elections, Brexit negotiations have made progress and, according to some analysts and politicians, EU foreign and security policy has developed a global strategy backed by moves towards an integrated defence. 'The wind is back in the European sails,’ said Jean-Claude Juncker, President of the European Commission, in September. 2017, the year when the EU marked the 60th anniversary of the European Union's founding Treaty of Rome, generated much creative thinking on how to re-launch or strengthen both the EU-27 and the euro area.

This note offers links to selected recent commentaries, studies and reports from major international think tanks on the state of the EU in 2017 and its outlook in several important areas.

Eurozone recovery and reform

The euro-zone medley: A collection of recent papers on the future of euro-area governance
Bruegel, December 2017

Comprehensive EMU reform or tinkering at the margins?
Centre for European Policy Studies, December 2017

Looking for the silver bullet: A comprehensive guide to the debate on ESM reform
Institute Jacques Delors Berlin, Bertelsmann Stiftung, December 2017

A new deal for the Eurozone: Remedy or placebo?
Centre for European Reform, November 2017

The EMU does not have any flaws: A critique of the European Commission's reflection paper on the deepening of the EMU
Clingendael, November 2017

Zone euro: La reprise économique peut-elle être menacée?
Confrontations Europe, October 2017

Economic government: What kind of coordination for the Eurozone?
Jacques Delors Institute Berlin, November 2017

Capital market integration and macroeconomic stability
Deutsches Institut für Wirtschaftsforschung, November 2017
Strengthening the EMU's internal cohesion: A comprehensive strategy
Fondation Robert Schuman, October 2017

The euro's difficult future: Competitiveness imbalances and the Eurozone's North-South divide
Atlantic Council, September 2017

Is the euro zone really out of the woods?
Centre for European Reform, September 2017

The Eurozone’s hidden strengths
Centre for European Policy Studies, June 2017

Managing deep debt crises in the Euro Area: Towards a feasible regime
Peterson Institute for International Economics, May 2017

Ideas for the future of Europe

Re-energising Europe: A package deal for the EU27
European Policy Centre, December 2017

New impetus for a strong and sustainable European Union
Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, October 2017

L’Europe qui protège: Conceiving the next European Union
European Council on Foreign Relations, September 2017

Europe must seize this moment of opportunity
Bruegel, August 2017

The Future of Europe: Comparing public and elite attitudes
Chatham House, June 2017

The EU’s choice: Perspectives on deepening and differentiation
Finnish Institute for International Affairs, May 2017

The case for a federal Europe
American Enterprise Institute, May 2017

The existential challenges looming for the EU
Centre for Policy Studies, June 2017

What future for Europe at its anniversary?
German Marshall Fund, March 2017

60th anniversary of the Treaties of Rome: What now for the EU?
Bertelsmann Stiftung, March 2017

Differentiated integration: A way forward for Europe
Istituto Affari Internazionali, March 2017

European spring: Trust in the EU and democracy is recovering
Bruegel, March 2017

More Union in European Union
Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, Centre for European Policy Studies, February 2017
Brexit talks

Finding a sensible Brexit
Chatham House, December 2017

Brexit: Next steps of UK’s withdrawal from the EU
House of Commons Library, December 2017

Brexit breakthrough: Into ever-deeper fog over both the Northern Irish border and the Channel
Centre for European Policy Studies, December 2017

Brexit deal kicks can down the road, not towards a soft Brexit
Scottish Centre on European Relations, December 2017

Brexit: Launching satellite Britain
European Policy Centre, December 2017

It’s a deal: on Brexit phase one
Institute for Government, December 2017

Brexit: Towards a deep and comprehensive partnership?
European Policy Centre, December 2017

Perspectives on the Irish Border and Brexit negotiations
Policy Exchange, December 2017

What next after sufficient progress?
Open Europe, December 2017

Brexit: UK defers the hard choices
Carnegie Europe, December 2017

Half time in the Brexit negotiations: The voter’s scorecard
The UK in a Changing Europe, December 2017

After Brexit: Alternate forms of Brexit and their implications for the United Kingdom, the European Union and the United States
Rand Corporation, December 2017

Ireland: The final barrier to a December Brexit deal
European Council on Foreign Relations, December 2017

The populist challenge

Democratic crises in the EU: Towards "New Frontiers"
Notre Europe, December 2017

How the EU can defeat populism
Friends of Europe, November 2017

Austria is a curious case of populism
Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, October 2017

Politicizing Europe, Europeanizing politics
La Vie des Idées, October 2017

Macron a game changer for Europe?
Centre for European Policy Studies, August 2017
Réconcilier l’Europe avec ses citoyens
Confrontations Europe, August 2017

Public support for European: Not an EU problem
Clingendael, July 2017

Time to stop the Polish danse macabre
Centre for European Policy Studies, July 2017

Comment combattre le populisme en Europe?
Terra nova, June 2017

Is right the new left? Right wing voters in France and in the EU and how they differ
Bertelsmann Stiftung, May 2017

Right-wing populism and authoritarian nationalism in the U.S. and Europe
Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, May 2017

Radical right and radical left Euroscepticism: A dynamic phenomenon
Jacques Delors Institute Berlin, April 2017

The Wilders effect on European mainstream policies
Clingendael, March 2017

Foreign policy, security and defence

The EU and its Neighbourhood: How to stabilise the ring of fire?
Notre Europe, December 2017

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

Can the Africa-EU Partnership be revived?
Istituto Affari Internazionali, November 2017

A paradigm shift in the EU’s Common Foreign and Security Policy: From transformation to resilience
Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik, October 2017

Can France and Germany make PESCO work as a process toward EU defence?
German Marshall Fund, October 2017

NATO’s Eastern flank and its future relationship with Russia
Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, October 2017

The coming clash: Why Iran will divide Europe from the United States
European Council on Foreign Relations, October 2017

EU climate policies: Friend, foe or bystander to forest restoration and carbon sinks?
Ecologic Institute, October 2017

The ties that bind
Atlantic Council, September 2017

Towards EU-MENA shared prosperity
Bruegel, OCP Policy Centre, August 2017
What if ... Conceivable crises: Unpredictable in 2017, unmanageable in 2020?
European Union Institute for Security Studies, June 2017

EU-China cooperation in global governance: Going beyond the conceptual gap
Egmont, May 2017

After the EU Global Strategy: Building resilience

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