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Latin America outlook: Issues to watch in 2024

Publication type Briefing

Date 20-02-2024

Author JUTTEN Marc

Policy area Foreign Affairs

Keyword America | common foreign and security policy | economic geography | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | foreign policy | GEOGRAPHY | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | political geography | Venezuela

Summary This year's EPRS outlook for Latin America focuses on key developments in the region, a partner of significant importance for the European Union (EU). As part of its efforts to foster alliances around the globe, the EU has been striving since 2022 to revive relations with Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) and 2023 was crucial for EU relations with the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC). The leaders' summit that took place in Brussels on 17-18 July 2023 under the Spanish Presidency of the Council of the EU – eight years after the last fully fledged bi-regional summit – tried to give new impetus to the bi-regional partnership. 2024 will be a key year for the EU and its partners in terms of keeping up momentum and following up on the summit's commitments. Latin America will see six presidential elections in 2024: in El Salvador, Panama, the Dominican Republic, Mexico, Uruguay and Venezuela. The 2023 trend to vote out incumbents in favour of anti-establishment candidates, seen recently in Argentina and Guatemala, is unlikely to continue. Another focus of this year's outlook is the security situation in the Andean region, in particular Ecuador and Colombia. Ecuador, a long-time anchor of stability in the region, has experienced an explosion of violence caused by internationally operating narco gangs. For Colombia, 2024 will be decisive as regards President Gustavo Petro's 'total peace' plan. Analysts will also be keeping a close eye on how Argentina – Latin America's third-largest economy and G20 member – develops under the country's new president, right-wing populist Javier Milei. The main question is whether Argentinians will accept drastic austerity reforms, or whether these and hyperinflation will push the country towards mass demonstrations and political turmoil. Lastly, as to the economic outlook for Latin America, forecasts do not foresee any big leaps in 2024. Overall, the LAC countries are expected to stay on a path of low growth.

Briefing [EN](#)

International Agreements in Progress: Economic Partnership Agreement with Kenya (East African Community)

Publication type Briefing

Date 12-02-2024

Author PICHON Eric

Policy area Foreign Affairs

Keyword cooperation policy | East African Community | EU institutions and European civil service | EU relations | European Association for Cooperation | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | extra-European organisations | foreign policy | international affairs | international cooperation | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | international relations | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security

Summary On 18 December 2023, the EU and Kenya signed an economic partnership agreement (EPA). The European Parliament has to give its consent for it to enter fully into force. The EU Kenya EPA will immediately provide duty-free, quota-free EU market access to all exports from Kenya, combined with a partial and gradual opening of the Kenyan market to imports from the EU. The text of the agreement includes binding provisions on trade and sustainable development, and a transparent dispute resolution mechanism. All other East African Community (EAC) countries – including South Sudan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Somalia, which accessed the EAC in 2016, 2022 and 2023 respectively – can join the agreement if they so wish. This agreement builds on negotiations for an EPA with the EAC partner states at the time – Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, and Uganda – which were finalised in October 2014. The EAC initially envisaged the EU-EAC EPA as a bloc-to-bloc agreement – i.e. the EPA could only enter into force after having been ratified by all EAC partners. However, Kenya has been the only EAC country to ratify the EU-EAC EPA in order not to lose free access to the EU market (all other EAC partner states have the status of least developed countries, and as such enjoy duty-free and quota-free access to the EU market). For a time, the EU EAC EPA signing and ratification process was stalled because of discussions on the agreement's consequences for East African economies, but the EAC eventually agreed to Kenya entering negotiations to implement a bilateral EPA with the EU. Parliament is expected to vote on giving consent to the EPA at its February II plenary session. Fourth edition. To view earlier editions of this briefing, please see the EPRS blog.

Briefing [EN](#)

[Deepening EU-Japan cooperation](#)

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 10-11-2023

External author Ramon Pacheco Pardo & Eva Pejsova

Policy area Foreign Affairs

Keyword Asia and Oceania | common foreign and security policy | cooperation policy | economic geography | EU relations | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | foreign policy | GEOGRAPHY | international cooperation | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | Japan | trade cooperation

Summary The EU–Japan partnership has undergone a substantial transformation over the past two decades. Historically limited to trade and economic cooperation, the decision to step up political-security cooperation, recorded since the mid-2010s, is a result of both partners' shifting foreign policy outlooks against an increasingly volatile global strategic environment that is defined by a return of great power politics. The conclusion of the EU–Japan Strategic Partnership Agreement (SPA) in 2018 marks a symbolic upgrade in the relationship, reflecting a growing strategic alignment and willingness to address common global security challenges. Bilateral cooperation has so far increased, especially in the fields of economic security, maritime security, cybersecurity, sustainable connectivity, energy transition, digital transformation, as well as greater coordination within relevant multilateral international frameworks. However, the prospects for further cooperation are vast and many of the political agreements still need to be translated into action. This In-Depth Analysis traces the progress in EU–Japan cooperation achieved so far, highlighting the most promising areas for future collaboration based on both parties shared strategic interests, respective capacities, and political objectives.

[In-Depth Analysis](#) [EN](#)

[The EU's preventive diplomacy: Practice makes \(not yet\) perfect?](#)

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 01-11-2023

External author Sean McGearry & Dylan Macchiarini Crosson

Policy area Foreign Affairs

Keyword Africa | cooperation policy | diplomatic relations | foreign policy | GEOGRAPHY | international affairs | international cooperation | international relations | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | international security | North Africa

Summary The EU's approach to preventive diplomacy is embedded in a wider ambition to 'preserve peace, prevent conflicts and strengthen international security'. Given deteriorating security and increasing geopolitical tensions worldwide, it is evident that preventive diplomacy requires sustained and enhanced attention by the EU. Regarded as a credible and reliable partner – as well as an international frontrunner in preventive diplomacy – continued violence and conflict in Ukraine, Nagorno-Karabakh, Kosovo, and Israel/Palestine over the past months, increasing geopolitical tensions and competition, weakening multilateralism, and the complexity of violent geopolitical contexts worldwide prove that the EU must re-assert its commitment to preventive diplomacy. The recommendations contained in this analysis chart a path forward to address implementation gaps, provide greater political steer to the EU's preventive engagement, contribute to more effective use of this tool, and ensure it is more centrally positioned in the integrated approach.

[In-Depth Analysis](#) [EN](#)

[Latin America Outlook 2023: EU-LAC relations at a time of geopolitical upheaval](#)

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 01-03-2023

Author DELIVORIAS Angelos | JUTTEN Marc

Policy area Foreign Affairs

Keyword America | association agreement (EU) | Caribbean Islands | economic conditions | economic situation | ECONOMICS | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | foreign policy | GEOGRAPHY | geopolitics | humanities | international affairs | international relations | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | Latin America | SCIENCE | summit meeting

Summary Latin America will be high on the agenda of the European Union in 2023, with the EU-CELAC Summit at Heads of State and Government level due to take place in the second half of the year. In its 2023 work programme, the European Commission announced its intention to propose a new strategy to reinvigorate relations with Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC). It is also striving for full ratification of the modernised Association Agreements with Chile and Mexico; the European Parliament could start the consent procedure for the agreement with Chile this year. Significant developments in LAC, to be followed closely, include China's growing influence in the region, Brazil's return to the international stage, political turmoil in Peru and three presidential elections.

[In-Depth Analysis](#) [EN](#)

Multimedia [China's influence in Latin America](#)

[Critical raw materials and Latin America](#)

[Annual report on implementation of the common foreign and security policy, 2022](#)

Publication type [At a Glance](#)

Date 13-01-2023

Author STANICEK BRANISLAV

Policy area Security and Defence

Keyword activity report | climate change policy | common foreign and security policy | defence | documentation | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | electoral procedure and voting | ENVIRONMENT | environmental policy | European construction | European defence policy | EUROPEAN UNION | foreign policy | human rights | international affairs | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | international security | LAW | multilateral relations | POLITICS | qualified majority | rights and freedoms | strategic autonomy

Summary The common foreign and security policy (CFSP) contributes to the EU's objectives of preserving peace; strengthening international security; promoting international cooperation; and developing and consolidating democracy, the rule of law, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. The 2022 annual report on the implementation of the CFSP adopted by the Committee for Foreign Affairs (AFET) highlights the need for stronger, more ambitious, credible, strategic and unified EU action on the world stage. It furthermore stresses that the EU should autonomously set its own objectives and develop and deploy capabilities to pursue them. The Parliament is scheduled to debate and vote on the report during its January 2023 plenary session.

[At a Glance](#) [EN](#)

[EU-China 2030: European expert consultation on future relations with China](#)

Publication type [Study](#)

Date 07-12-2022

Author VAN WIERINGEN KJELD

Policy area Foreign Affairs | Global Governance | Human Rights | Industry | Internal Market and Customs Union | International Trade | Research Policy | Security and Defence

Keyword Asia and Oceania | China | documentation | economic geography | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EU relations | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | foreign policy | GEOGRAPHY | information analysis | international affairs | international agreement | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security

Summary The EU's relations with China are changing rapidly. What priorities, choices, challenges and opportunities might emerge for the EU in its dealings with China over the next decade? This study presents the results of an expert survey on the future of EU-China relations. 171 China observers took part, drawn from among European think tanks, EU institutions and a China-focused European youth network. A synthesis of the responses reflects the considerations, insights and advice of Europe's China knowledge community on the EU's approach to China looking ahead towards 2030.

[Study](#) [EN](#)

[African Union instruments to protect human rights and democracy: Ambitious objectives still to be achieved](#)

Publication type [Briefing](#)

Date 25-11-2022

Author ZAMFIR Ionel

Policy area Human Rights

Keyword African Union | democracy | EU relations | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | extra-European organisations | foreign policy | human rights | international affairs | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | international relations | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | LAW | political framework | POLITICS | rights and freedoms

Summary The creation of the African Union (AU) in 2002 sparked hopes for a new era in African integration that would put an end to the most egregious violations of human rights and democratic norms that have plagued the region since its countries achieved independence. To fulfil this mission, the AU was endowed with broader competences and new institutional mechanisms. More and more African countries have ratified new and existing continental human rights and governance treaties, but AU members have adhered less to the more constrictive mechanisms included in these treaties. Two major instruments stand out among these new developments: the AU's competence to intervene militarily in major crises to stop severe human rights violations, and a proclaimed zero tolerance policy towards unconstitutional changes of government. The intergovernmental nature of the organisation and reluctance by member states to commit too much power to it have posed challenges to meeting its objectives. The AU has dispatched troops to some major crises, but not to others, and the planned African rapid intervention force is still to see action. The AU's policy of unconditionally condemning unconstitutional changes of government made a difference until recently, when the continent has witnessed a sudden resurgence in coups d'état. Despite swift condemnations of the coups in west Africa in particular, the AU has been criticised for its perceived lack of consistency with respect to similar situations elsewhere on the continent. The EU has been a strong supporter of these objectives, pledging aid and assistance to the AU. The European Parliament has developed a support programme for the Pan-African Parliament. This briefing updates two earlier 'at a glance' notes from 2017.

[Briefing](#) [EN](#)

[Xi re-elected to China's top job \[What Think Tanks are thinking\]](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 28-10-2022

Author CESLUK-GRAJEWSKI Marcin

Policy area Foreign Affairs

Keyword Asia and Oceania | China | common foreign and security policy | Communism | economic geography | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | foreign policy | GEOGRAPHY | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | political framework | political militant | political party | POLITICS

Summary Xi Jinping won a third term in China's top job, as secretary general of the Communist Party, at its Congress in October, solidifying his grip on power over a country which has become increasingly autocratic and abrasive in its foreign policy during his 10-year reign to date. Xi's re-election for a third term broke with China's recent tradition of leaders being replaced after two terms, in a sign he will yield power in a manner reminiscent of communist China's founder Mao Zedong. His new reign begins amid fears that China might try to annex Taiwan, and with questions over the extent to which he will support Russia in its war against Ukraine. Domestically, Xi faces challenges including faltering growth, a property crisis, and huge debt levels. This note gathers links to the recent publications and commentaries from many international think tanks on China, its international relations and domestic policies.

Briefing [EN](#)

[Peace and Security in 2022: Overview of EU action and outlook for the future](#)

Publication type Study

Date 14-07-2022

Author LAZAROU Eleni | ZAMFIR Ionel

Policy area Democracy | Foreign Affairs | Security and Defence

Keyword conflict prevention | democracy | European construction | European neighbourhood policy | European security | EUROPEAN UNION | foreign policy | geopolitics | humanities | international affairs | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | peaceful co-existence | peacekeeping | political framework | POLITICS | Russo-Ukrainian issue | SCIENCE | strategic autonomy

Summary This is the fifth Peace and Security Outlook produced by the European Parliamentary Research Service (EPRS). The series analyses and explains the European Union's contribution to the promotion of peace and security internationally, through its various external policies. The study provides an overview of the issues and current state of play. It looks first at the concept of peace and the changing nature of the geopolitical environment as European security faces the most tangible military threat since the end of the Cold War. Russia's war on Ukraine compounds the challenges to peace and security already accentuated by the coronavirus crisis. The study follows the logic of the annual series, by focusing on the promotion of peace and security in the EU's external action. Linking the study to the Normandy Index, which measures threats to peace and democracy worldwide based on the EU Global Strategy, each chapter of the study analyses a specific threat to peace and presents an overview of EU action to counter the related risks. The areas discussed include violent conflict, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, climate change, cyber-attacks, disinformation, and terrorism, among other issues. The EU's pursuit of peace is understood as a goal embodied in several EU policies, including development, democracy support, humanitarian assistance, security, and defence. The study concludes with an outlook for the future. A parallel study, published separately, focuses specifically on EU peace-building efforts in the Eastern Neighbourhood. The studies have been drafted as a contribution to the Normandy World Peace Forum scheduled for September 2022.

Study [EN](#), [FR](#)

Multimedia [Peace and security interactive infographic](#)

[Values on the retreat? The role of values in the EU's external policies](#)

Publication type Study

Date 31-03-2022

Author DAMEN Mario

Policy area Democracy | Development and Humanitarian Aid | Foreign Affairs | Global Governance | Human Rights | International Trade | Public international law | Security and Defence

Keyword EU policy | EU relations | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | foreign policy | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | production | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | value chain

Summary There is a general perception in Western countries that the role of values as a foreign policy driver is currently on the decline. This study in the series 'global trends in external policies' seeks to contribute to the debate by investigating what is meant by 'values', whether their importance is on the wane and, if so, how this manifests itself, and how the European Union (EU) can respond to these trends. The broad concept of values has therefore been split into five categories. Socio-cultural values are implicit drivers of foreign policy. In the case of the EU, these are characterised by diversity. 'Political values' is used as a term to describe the fundamental principles of political and public action, defining the relationship between the state and its citizens. For the EU, these are often referred to as the triad of human rights, democracy and the rule of law. Economic values characterise the nature of the prevailing economic system in a country. The EU advocates a social market economy. The term 'Earth values' refers to the inclusion of environmental considerations in external policies. The EU has become a leader in promoting sustainability. Resulting from the preceding four are 'international order values', which characterise the overall international outlook of actors. The EU's international order value is 'principled pragmatism'. This study compares the EU's values with those of four reference countries: the US, Turkey, Russia and China. The US in the West comes closest to many of the EU's values, but does not overlap completely. Turkey and Russia are in the EU's Eastern neighbourhood and increasingly disagree with the EU on values. Chinese values overlap least with the EU's values. The study confirms a decline in the influence of the political values preferred by the EU. This decline appears to correspond to a clear West-East spectrum. However, the study also notes an opposite trend of increasing influence of Earth values. For these, a Eurocentric spectrum appears more adequate. For economic values, the definition of trends depends on benchmarks and methodology. The international order notion of 'principled pragmatism' has been extended to 'EU strategic autonomy'. Values are often considered as part of EU strategic autonomy and some policies, such as EU accession or trade policy, incorporate them. A values-based approach to external policies should differentiate according to the partner country and the value category concerned. Whereas cooperation on political values does not appear to be fruitful with certain countries, continued efforts on economic or Earth values may still be possible. The study explores what such a differentiated approach could mean for the four reference countries in the near future. Such an approach should also take into account the differing perceptions of partner countries. Although positive avenues of cooperation on, for example, Earth values are still possible, geopolitical tensions, partly rooted in differing values, are overshadowing this path.

Study [EN](#)

[US Congress approach to US-Taiwan relations](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 01-03-2022

Author GRIEGER Gisela

Policy area Foreign Affairs

Keyword America | Asia and Oceania | China | cooperation policy | defence | defence policy | economic cooperation | economic geography | foreign policy | free-trade agreement | GEOGRAPHY | international affairs | international cooperation | international negotiations | international relations | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | international trade | political geography | Taiwan | TRADE | United States

Summary The first year of the 117th US Congress (2021-2022) under a 'unified government', where President Biden's party holds a majority of Democrats in the House of Representatives and the Senate, saw strong bipartisan support for shaping closer security, economic and political ties with Taiwan. Perceived as a vibrant democracy, worth protecting to secure peace and security in the Indo-Pacific region, the Biden administration invited Taiwan to the 2021 US Summit for Democracy, defining shared values rather than statehood as the criterion for participation. However, like the Trump executive, Biden's administration has not delivered on Congress's call to start talks with Taiwan on a free trade agreement, but has embraced an alternative framework for engagement.

At a Glance [EN](#)

[Stepping up EU cooperation with Taiwan](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 13-10-2021

Author JOCHHEIM Ulrich

Policy area Foreign Affairs

Keyword Asia and Oceania | China | cooperation policy | cooperation policy | democracy | direct investment | economic geography | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | financing and investment | foreign investment | foreign policy | GEOGRAPHY | human rights | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | international trade | LAW | political framework | POLITICS | rights and freedoms | Taiwan | the EU's international role | TRADE | trade relations

Summary Since its political transition began in the 1980s, Taiwan has become a vibrant democracy and has also joined the ranks of high-income countries. Economic relations between the EU and Taiwan are flourishing, as illustrated by the fact that the EU is Taiwan's most important source of foreign direct investment. The European Parliament has repeatedly called for the EU to take the first steps towards a bilateral investment agreement. During its October II plenary session, Parliament is expected to debate EU-Taiwan political relations and cooperation and vote on a draft recommendation to the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy.

At a Glance [DE](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FR](#), [IT](#), [PL](#)

[Egypt's foreign policy within a challenging regional context](#)

Publication type **Briefing**

Date **11-10-2021**

Author **STANICEK BRANISLAV**

Policy area **Foreign Affairs**

Keyword **Africa | Arab world | cooperation policy | defence | economic geography | Egypt | ENVIRONMENT | exclusive economic zone | foreign policy | GEOGRAPHY | international cooperation | international law | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | LAW | Mediterranean Sea | natural environment | political geography | warships**

Summary In the post-Arab Spring period, Egypt's foreign policy has largely been shaped by the state of affairs in the Middle East and the eastern Mediterranean. Civil wars and unrest have proliferated in the region, creating a knock-on effect felt first by Iraq and then by Syria, Lebanon and Libya. Conflicts in neighbouring countries, often fought by proxies, have affected Cairo's internal political and security interests and influenced Egyptian foreign policy. One such conflict has to do with the persistence of Islamic terrorist networks, such as Ansar Bayt al-Maqdis (ABM), in northern Sinai. Another is between the Palestinian factions and between Hamas and Israel, in both of which Egypt has been a mediator. Fighting against groups such as the Egyptian Islamic Jihad and the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL)-Sinai Province has been a key reason for Egypt's interest in reinforcing alliances with Israel, the Arab Gulf countries, the United States, Russia and the European Union. Following Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi's re-election for a second term in 2018, competition with regional players, such as Turkey, and the role of political Islam, have become more dominant and intertwined with Egypt's geopolitical and economic interests. In 2020-2021, Egypt successfully mitigated the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on its economy and was the only Middle East and North Africa (MENA) country with a positive GDP growth (3.6 %). Despite declining revenues in some sectors, such as tourism, ratings agencies predict that the country will continue to score the highest levels of GDP growth in the MENA region in 2021-2024. Reinvigorated, Egypt seems to be looking for greater strategic influence and power. The country aims to continue partnering with the EU in areas of strategic importance and is likely to play a decisive role in Libya and the eastern Mediterranean. Some initiatives, such as its mediation in the Libyan civil war, participation in the East Mediterranean Gas Forum, and joint military naval exercises with EU Member States, speak of the main prerogatives of Egyptian foreign policy and its incremental alignment with EU interests. The European Parliament supports enhanced EU-Egypt cooperation but has raised red flags with regard to the situation of human rights in the country.

[Briefing](#) [EN](#)

[The future of EU-US relations](#)

Publication type **At a Glance**

Date **30-09-2021**

Author **PARRY Matthew**

Policy area **Foreign Affairs**

Keyword **America | cooperation policy | economic geography | EU relations | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | foreign policy | GEOGRAPHY | international affairs | international cooperation | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | international trade | international trade | political geography | summit meeting | TRADE | transatlantic relations | United States**

Summary In December 2020, the European Commission and the High Representative/Vice-President (HR/VP) published an ambitious agenda for transatlantic cooperation with the incoming US administration of Joe Biden and Kamala Harris. This was followed by an EU-US Summit on 15 June 2021, which saw the launch of new formats for EU-US collaboration. Yet unexpected foreign policy developments since then have raised questions about the partnership's future. Parliament is expected to debate and vote on a report on the topic during the October 1 plenary session.

[At a Glance](#) [DE](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FR](#), [IT](#), [PL](#)

[Who does what in security and defence? EU-US Explainer](#)

Publication type **At a Glance**

Date **29-09-2021**

Author **LATICI Tania**

Policy area **Security and Defence**

Keyword **America | defence | economic geography | EU institutions and European civil service | EU-NATO cooperation | European construction | European defence policy | European External Action Service | European security | EUROPEAN UNION | foreign policy | GEOGRAPHY | international affairs | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | NATO | political geography | POLITICS | politics and public safety | public safety | transatlantic relations | United States | world organisations**

Summary Geopolitical competition between rival nations and a complex security environment are threatening some of the core values of the transatlantic alliance. The institutions responsible for implementing EU and US security and defence policies aim to protect civilians and to promote rules-based conduct in external action. Against this backdrop, both the EU and US are undertaking significant strategic realignments, as the US shifts from counter-insurgency operations to competing with near-peer powers and the EU moves towards the objective of a defence union and strategic autonomy. Despite the historical transatlantic security and defence relationship, the institutional landscapes of the EU and the US are distinct and complex. This document seeks to give an overview of who does what in security and defence institutions on both sides of the Atlantic.

[At a Glance](#) [EN](#)

'Global Britain' and 'Europe of Defence': Prospects, challenges and opportunities

Publication type Briefing

Date 06-09-2021

Author LATICI Tania

Policy area Foreign Affairs | Security and Defence

Keyword common security and defence policy | defence | defence policy | economic geography | EU relations | Europe | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | foreign policy | GEOGRAPHY | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | political geography | United Kingdom | withdrawal from the EU

Summary Since the referendum to leave the European Union (EU) in 2016, the United Kingdom (UK) has been rethinking its role in world affairs. Under the 'Global Britain' banner, the UK sees itself as a force for multilateralism, a strong military power with global presence and reach, and a strong pillar of the transatlantic alliance. Reflection on the implications of 'Global Britain' for the UK's future foreign, security and defence policy has resulted in two strategic documents, the Integrated Review and the Defence Command Paper, which outline policy priorities and the government's strategic vision. Although the EU as such is to a large extent absent from these strategic documents, there are implications to be considered, particularly as the EU has taken significant steps towards defence and military integration and as it is continuing to deepen its relationship with NATO. Although foreign, security and defence policy were excluded from the formal negotiations on a new EU-UK partnership, at the British government's request, it appears that the EU and UK foreign policy positions, strategic considerations, and security interests remain largely aligned. Various experts therefore argue that it is worth considering options for flexible engagements and for cultivating a new relationship through other common multilateral, bilateral and international forums.

Briefing [EN](#)

The emerging contours of President Biden's foreign policy

Publication type Briefing

Date 03-06-2021

Author PARRY Matthew

Policy area Foreign Affairs

Keyword America | Asia and Oceania | China | documentation | economic geography | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | Europe | foreign policy | GEOGRAPHY | head of State | international affairs | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | international trade | political framework | political geography | POLITICS | report | Russia | summit meeting | TRADE | trade dispute | trade policy | transatlantic relations | United States

Summary In mid-June 2021, United States (US) President Joe Biden is due to visit Europe for his first overseas trip since taking office in January. He will attend the Group of Seven (G7) summit from 11 to 13 June in Cornwall (United Kingdom), a NATO leaders' summit in Brussels on 14 June, followed by an EU-US summit on 15 June, and, on 16 June, a summit in Geneva (Switzerland) with Russian President Vladimir Putin. President Biden's arrival in Europe will mark almost five months in office, providing an opportunity to take stock of his foreign policy record thus far. As the Democratic candidate in the November 2020 US presidential election, Biden promised that if elected he would pursue a 'foreign policy for the middle class'. He argued that strengthening the majority of citizens' financial security, investing in US industrial capacity, and countering destabilising inequities at home, would allow a more socially and economically cohesive US to compete with and confront rivals on the world stage. He also argued that his administration's most pressing domestic challenges – including overcoming the coronavirus pandemic, and adapting to and mitigating the impact of climate change on the US – would require international cooperation. The Biden Administration's policy papers, positions and statements identify two broad priorities that guide its foreign policy: first, 'building back better' on a global scale, in pursuit of the same imperative at home. Second, working with allies to counter the threats to US interests posed by authoritarian rivals such as China and Russia, while working tactically with those same rivals where theirs and US interests overlap. Biden's early foreign policy moves have fulfilled promises to reverse Trump Administration policies in key areas, such as by re-entering the Paris Agreement, re-affirming the importance of the transatlantic partnership and other traditional alliances, and engaging diplomatically with rivals. However, elements of the previous administration's policies remain, in particular some of its trade policy priorities.

Briefing [EN](#)

The EU strategic autonomy debate [What Think Tanks are thinking]

Publication type Briefing

Date 30-03-2021

Author CESLUK-GRAJEWSKI Marcin

Policy area Area of Freedom, Security and Justice | Economics and Monetary Issues | Foreign Affairs | International Trade

Keyword America | Asia and Oceania | China | common foreign and security policy | documentation | economic geography | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EU relations | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | foreign policy | GEOGRAPHY | geopolitics | humanities | information analysis | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | political geography | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | research and intellectual property | SCIENCE | think tank | United States

Summary An increasing number of politicians and analysts argue that the European Union should boost its 'strategic autonomy' and/or develop a higher degree of 'European sovereignty'. These concepts encompass a greater potential for independence, self-reliance and resilience in a wide range of fields – such as defence, trade, industrial policy, digital policy, economic and monetary policy, and health policy – following a series of events in recent years that have exposed Europe's vulnerability to external shocks. The debate emerged in the late 2010s, after the French President, Emmanuel Macron, called for a conscious 'European sovereignty' and the German Chancellor, Angela Merkel, said that Europe would have to take its destiny into its own hands, as it could no longer necessarily rely on the United States to protect it. This latter statement followed President Donald Trump's withdrawal from the landmark nuclear deal with Iran, in which the EU had invested significant political capital. In parallel, there is growing concern about the implications for Europe of the progressive hardening of positions between the US and China, on both economic and political fronts. This note offers links to recent commentaries, studies and reports from international think tanks on the European issues related to European strategic autonomy and sovereignty.

Briefing [EN](#)

[The Biden challenge in foreign policy \[What Think Tanks are thinking\]](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 12-03-2021

Author CESLUK-GRAJEWSKI Marcin

Policy area Foreign Affairs

Keyword America | documentation | economic geography | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | electoral procedure and voting | foreign policy | GEOGRAPHY | head of State | information analysis | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | NATO | political framework | political geography | POLITICS | presidential election | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | research and intellectual property | think tank | United States | world organisations

Summary Nearly two months ago, on 20 January, Joseph Biden was sworn in as the 46th President of the United States, at the end of perhaps the most divisive electoral processes in his country's history. The new President's supporters and advocates, including many in Europe, are counting on him to set a new course for the US in global politics, moving to firm up and advance the multilateral, rules-based world order and rekindle America's traditional alliances, notably within the NATO framework. Very high hopes and expectations have been raised about the potential of Washington to make a decisive shift from the assumptions and actions of Trump years. This note offers links to recent commentaries, studies and reports from international think tanks on President Biden's early weeks in office and the various expectations regarding his presidency, especially in respect of the place of the United States in the world.

[Briefing](#) [EN](#)

[Russia's armed forces: Defence capabilities and policy](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 10-03-2021

Author RUSSELL Martin

Policy area Foreign Affairs

Keyword armed forces | arms control | defence | defence expenditure | economic geography | Europe | foreign policy | GEOGRAPHY | information warfare | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | military equipment | military intervention | NATO | non-proliferation of arms | nuclear non-proliferation | political geography | POLITICS | politics and public safety | public opinion | Russia | world organisations

Summary Reforms launched under Vladimir Putin have restored some of the Russian armed forces' former glory. Russia now has a streamlined, mobile and mostly professional military, equipped with modern weapons. The impact of these changes was visible in Syria, Russia's first military intervention outside the post-Soviet region. Despite this increased capability, there are demographic and financial constraints on Russian military power. The armed forces are not attracting enough recruits to go fully professional, and therefore still need conscripts – who are less well-trained than career soldiers – to make up the numbers. Moscow has spent billions of dollars on new weapons, such as the innovative nuclear missiles unveiled by President Putin in 2018, but not all branches of the armed forces are equally well equipped. Russia's increasingly assertive foreign policy raises the question of how much of a threat its military represents. Officially, the role of the armed forces is to defend Russian territory, but in practice Moscow uses military force to assert control over its post-Soviet sphere of influence, for example in Ukraine. Russia also uses hybrid methods such as cyber-attacks, including against North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) countries. NATO's overall numerical superiority means that Russia is likely to avoid all-out war with the alliance. However, the risk that it might use nuclear weapons and other niche strengths to escape retaliation for a limited attack (for example in the Baltic region) cannot be entirely discounted.

[Briefing](#) [EN](#)

[The European Union and the multilateral system: Lessons from past experience and future challenges](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 05-03-2021

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law | Foreign Affairs

Keyword cooperation policy | Economic and Monetary Union | euro | European construction | European cooperation | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | foreign policy | intergovernmental cooperation (EU) | international affairs | international cooperation | international relations | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | monetary economics | monetary relations | multilateral relations | the EU's international role

Summary EPRS invites leading experts and commentators to share their thinking and insights on important features of the European Union as a political and economic system. In this paper, David O'Sullivan, former Secretary General of the European Commission and EU Ambassador to the United States, reflects on the Union's contribution to and standing in the multilateral system which it has done so much to support and pioneer, as well as on some of the issues that confront Europe if it is to maximise its influence in international economic fora of various kinds.

[Briefing](#) [EN](#)

Women in foreign affairs and international security: Still far from gender equality

Publication type Briefing

Date 03-03-2021

Author ZAMFIR Ionel

Policy area Foreign Affairs | Gender Issues, Equality and Diversity | Security and Defence

Keyword diplomatic profession | economic analysis | ECONOMICS | EMPLOYMENT AND WORKING CONDITIONS | executive | female worker | foreign policy | gender equality | international affairs | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | international security | labour market | LAW | peacekeeping | position of women | rights and freedoms | social affairs | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | statistics | United Nations | UNO

Summary The debate on the participation and role of women in foreign affairs and international security is a timely and relevant one, and is being raised with increasing frequency at both national and international levels. In particular, there is growing attention to the imbalances in the representation of women in leadership and other key positions in the area of foreign and security policy, as well as to the growing body of evidence regarding the positive effect of including women in several key areas of foreign and security policy. While gaps persist, women's representation at management and ministerial levels in the areas of foreign affairs and security has increased whether in the European Union (EU), the United States (US) or at the United Nations (UN) level. Among these issues, women's role in peacekeeping receives particular attention, as research has consistently shown that gender equality contributes to peace, and that peace negotiations involving women have a better chance of being sustainable and effective. Gender-equal societies enjoy better health, stronger economic growth and higher security. The UN and the EU have put pronounced emphasis on the issue in the past two decades. UN Security Council Resolution 1325 established the 'women, peace and security' (WPS) agenda in 2000. Since then, more WPS-related resolutions have been adopted, widening the scope and breadth of gendered peace and security. These resolutions have been instrumental in changing the philosophy and rhetoric focused on conflict and gender equality, thereby challenging the international community to do more. Several initiatives are also being implemented at EU level, including through the 2018 EU strategic approach to WPS. However, critics underline that a lot remains to be done, as women continue to be under-represented in the field of foreign and security policy across the world. This is an update of an EPRS briefing published in September 2019.

Briefing [EN](#)

Implementation of the common foreign and security policy (CFSP)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 13-01-2021

Author STANICEK BRANISLAV

Policy area Foreign Affairs

Keyword activity report | common foreign and security policy | cooperation policy | documentation | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | enlargement of the Union | European construction | European security | EUROPEAN UNION | foreign policy | international affairs | international cooperation | international relations | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | multilateral relations | the EU's international role

Summary Through the common foreign and security policy (CFSP), the European Union (EU) seeks to develop relations and build partnerships with third countries and international, regional or global organisations with shared principles on human rights, democracy and fundamental freedoms. The CFSP promotes multilateral solutions to common problems, based on international law and values. The European Parliament is set to vote on the annual CFSP report covering 2020 during the January 2021 plenary session.

At a Glance [DE](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FR](#), [IT](#), [PL](#)

US foreign policy after the 2020 Presidential election: Issues for the European Union

Publication type Briefing

Date 03-12-2020

Author LAZAROU Eleni | TITIEVSKAIA Jana

Policy area Foreign Affairs

Keyword America | Asia and Oceania | China | climate change policy | cooperation policy | economic cooperation | economic geography | electoral procedure and voting | ENVIRONMENT | environmental policy | foreign policy | GEOGRAPHY | international affairs | international cooperation | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | international trade | multilateral relations | NATO | political geography | POLITICS | presidential election | TRADE | trade relations | transatlantic relations | United States | world organisations

Summary The election of the 46th President of the United States took place on 3 November 2020 amidst the unprecedented scenario of the coronavirus pandemic. Following several days of vote-counting, the democratic candidate, Joe Biden, secured the electoral votes needed to become the next President of the United States. His inauguration will take place on 20 January 2021. Domestic concerns, most notably the management of the coronavirus crisis and the economy, as well as racial issues, were the most important subjects in determining voter preference. As usual, foreign policy did not rank highly amidst voters' concerns. However, for the European Union, the impact of the election of Joe Biden on US foreign policy will leave a substantial mark on the future course of transatlantic relations and of global cooperation. While foreign policy under the forthcoming Biden Administration is expected to depart from some of the key tenets of President Trump's 'America First' foreign policy, experts also point to a high possibility of continuity in areas such as trade and relations with China. However, on climate change, multilateral cooperation and support for NATO, expectations are high regarding a potential return to deep levels of transatlantic consensus and cooperation. Biden's foreign policy is likely to focus on multilateral cooperation, for example by re-joining the Paris Agreement on climate change and resuming US support for the World Health Organization. The former Vice-President has stated he will likely re-join the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA, or Iran Nuclear Deal) in time, and pursue an extension of the New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) with Russia.

Briefing [EN](#)

[The foreign policy implications of the pandemic](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 19-11-2020

Author ZAMFIR Ionel

Policy area Coronavirus | Foreign Affairs

Keyword common foreign and security policy | cooperation policy | coronavirus disease | economic conditions | economic recovery | ECONOMICS | EP resolution | epidemic | European construction | European neighbourhood policy | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | foreign policy | health | international affairs | international cooperation | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | multilateral relations | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | the EU's international role

Summary During the November II plenary session, the European Parliament is due to debate an own-initiative report on the foreign policy consequences of the coronavirus pandemic. Considering the pandemic a 'game changer', the report makes the case for stronger and more effective EU external policies, along with a set of recommendations.

[At a Glance](#) [EN](#)

[The Abraham Accords](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 05-11-2020

Author IMMENKAMP Beatrix

Policy area Foreign Affairs

Keyword Asia and Oceania | Bahrain | cooperation policy | economic geography | establishment of peace | foreign policy | GEOGRAPHY | international affairs | international agreement | international cooperation | international relations | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | Israel | military occupation | Palestine question | peacekeeping | political geography | United Arab Emirates

Summary On 15 September 2020, in a White House ceremony, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Bahrain signed the 'Abraham Accords' with Israel, normalising pre-existing relations between them that have grown stronger mainly over fears of an expansionist Iran and loss of faith in the US's role as security provider. The accords, brokered by the US, mark a diplomatic breakthrough in the Middle East, which has seen a growing number of Arab League states strengthen ties with Israel. However, the Palestinian Authority and all Palestinian factions denounced the agreements, on which they were not consulted and which make no reference to ending Israel's occupation of Palestinian land. The accords are expected to generate important economic benefits for the participating states.

[At a Glance](#) [EN](#)

[EU foreign, security and defence policies \[What Think Tanks are thinking\]](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 27-10-2020

Author CESLUK-GRAJEWSKI Marcin

Policy area Foreign Affairs | Security and Defence

Keyword common foreign and security policy | EU relations | European construction | European security | EUROPEAN UNION | foreign policy | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security

Summary The European Union faces multifaceted foreign security and defence policy challenges. First and foremost, it awaits the outcome of the US Presidential election, which is set to determine in significant part global economic and political developments in the short to medium term. The Union also faces a tough choice about how to treat China: more as a rival or as a partner, and in which areas? An increasingly assertive Russia represents yet another challenge. The EU's stance on climate, migration, Africa, terrorism and developments in its near neighbourhood add to this complex scene. This note offers links to recent commentaries, studies and reports from major international think tanks on EU foreign, security and defence policies.

[Briefing](#) [EN](#)

[Trump or Biden: Where next for US foreign and defence policy? \[What Think Tanks are thinking\]](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 09-10-2020

Author CESLUK-GRAJEWSKI Marcin

Policy area Foreign Affairs | Security and Defence

Keyword America | economic geography | electoral procedure and voting | foreign policy | GEOGRAPHY | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | political geography | POLITICS | presidential election | United States

Summary The United States is heading for a presidential election on Tuesday 3. November that will pit incumbent Republican candidate, Donald Trump, against the former Democrat Vice President and Senator, Joe Biden. Many analysts and politicians say that this contest may well be one of the most important since the end of World War II, as it will offer a stark choice between two entirely different paths for US foreign and defence policy. During his four years in office, analysts stress how President Trump, whose decisions were often unpredictable, has reversed many aspects of traditional US foreign and defence policy, which had previously been based on a respect for international institutions and a strong Transatlantic alliance. This note offers links to recent commentaries and reports from international think tanks on the US electoral campaign and the legacy of President Trump.

[Briefing](#) [EN](#)

[The future of multilateralism and strategic partnerships](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 11-09-2020

Author LAZAROU Eleni

Policy area Coronavirus | Foreign Affairs

Keyword common foreign and security policy | cooperation policy | coronavirus disease | epidemic | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | foreign policy | health | international affairs | international cooperation | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | multilateral relations | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | transatlantic relations

Summary The coronavirus pandemic of 2020 has exacerbated global geopolitical trends, including the struggle to uphold multilateralism in a climate of growing nationalism, protectionism and rising great power competition. At the same time, it has demonstrated the need for multilateral cooperation for the effective mitigation of cross-border threats, including health crises. Within this environment, the European Union (EU), a multilateral entity in itself, has illustrated the relevance of cooperation. Beyond its internal strengthening, the EU has set the defence and reform of multilateralism as one of its key priorities under the current European Commission. This will require a more coordinated and autonomous EU foreign policy, a smart approach towards the escalating US–China rivalry, reinvigorated cooperation with major democracies, and mobilisation of the EU's foreign policy tools, widely defined. As coronavirus leaves parts of the world more fragile and vulnerable, it also precipitates the need for a reformed multilateral system 'fit for purpose' and able to address the challenges of the future. Thinking through new practices to enrich multilateralism will be important for the further development of international cooperation.

[Briefing](#) [EN](#)

[COVID-19's impact on human rights outside the EU](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 03-04-2020

Author ZAMFIR Ionel

Policy area Coronavirus | Development and Humanitarian Aid | Human Rights

Keyword coronavirus disease | epidemic | foreign policy | health | human rights | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | LAW | rights and freedoms | social framework | social impact | SOCIAL QUESTIONS

Summary In their attempt to contain the COVID-19 pandemic, many countries around the world have imposed limitations on freedom of movement and other related freedoms within their territories, thereby severely curtailing certain fundamental rights. In the event of a public emergency, international human rights norms do allow for the imposition of limitations under strict conditions. Moreover, so far no other approach has been as effective in slowing down the outbreak, while also upholding the right of the most vulnerable to health and life. However, some governments may be abusing the situation to suppress human rights and wield undue power.

[At a Glance](#) [EN](#)

[Commitments made at the hearing of Jutta URPIILAINEN, Commissioner-designate - International Partnerships](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 22-11-2019

Author BERNARDINI FLAVIA

Policy area Democracy | Development and Humanitarian Aid | Foreign Affairs | Human Rights | International Trade

Keyword candidate | electoral procedure and voting | EU institutions and European civil service | EU relations | European Commissioner | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | foreign policy | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | parliamentary proceedings | political party | political programme | POLITICS | public hearing

Summary The Commissioner-designate, Jutta Urpilainen, appeared before the European Parliament on 01 October 2019 to answer MEPs' questions. During the hearing, she made a number of commitments which are highlighted in this document. These commitments refer to her portfolio, as described in the mission letter sent to her by Ursula von der Leyen, President-elect of the European Commission, including:
Building sustainable partnerships.

[Briefing](#) [EN](#)

Women in foreign affairs and international security: Contours of a timely debate

Publication type Briefing

Date 17-09-2019

Author LAZAROU Eleni

Policy area Foreign Affairs | Gender Issues, Equality and Diversity | Security and Defence | Transposition and Implementation of Law

Keyword EMPLOYMENT AND WORKING CONDITIONS | foreign policy | gender equality | international affairs | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | international security | labour market | LAW | peace | position of women | rights and freedoms | senior management | social affairs | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | UN resolution

Summary The debate on the participation and role of women in foreign affairs and international security is a timely and relevant one, and is being raised with increasing frequency at both national and international levels. In particular, there is growing attention to the imbalances in the representation of women in leadership and other key positions in the area of foreign and security policy, as well as to the growing body of evidence regarding the positive effect of including women in several key areas of foreign and security policy. Among these issues, women's role in peacekeeping receives particular attention, as research has repeatedly shown that gender equality contributes to peace, and that peace negotiations involving women have a better chance of being sustainable and effective. Gender-equal societies enjoy better health, stronger economic growth and higher security. The United Nations and the EU have put pronounced emphasis on the issue in the past two decades. UN Security Council Resolution 1325 established the women, peace and security (WPS) agenda in 2000. Since then, more WPS-related resolutions have been adopted, widening the scope and breadth of gendered peace and security. These resolutions have been instrumental in changing the philosophy and rhetoric focused on conflict and gender equality, thereby challenging the international community to do more. Several initiatives are also being implemented at EU level, including through the 2018 EU Strategic Approach to WPS. However, critics posit that a lot remains to be done, as women continue to be under-represented in the field of foreign and security policy across the world.

Briefing [EN](#)

Peace and Security in 2019: Overview of EU action and outlook for the future

Publication type Study

Date 03-06-2019

Author LAZAROU Eleni

Policy area Democracy | Foreign Affairs | Security and Defence

Keyword common security and defence policy | establishment of peace | European construction | European security | EUROPEAN UNION | foreign policy | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | peacekeeping

Summary This is the second EU Peace and Security Outlook produced by the European Parliamentary Research Service (EPRS). The series is designed to analyse and explain the contribution of the European Union to the promotion of peace and security internationally through its various external policies. The study provides an overview of the issues and current state of play. It looks first at the concept of peace and the changing nature of the geopolitical environment. It then focuses on the centrality of the promotion of peace and security in the EU's external action and proceeds to an analysis of the practical pursuit of these principles in three main areas of EU policy: development, democracy support, and security and defence, as well as in the increasingly relevant area of disinformation and foreign influence. It concludes with the outlook for the future. A parallel study, published separately, focuses specifically on EU peacebuilding efforts in Colombia. The studies have been drafted with a view to their presentation at the Normandy World Peace Forum, in June 2019.

Study [DE](#), [EN](#), [FR](#)

Multimedia [Peace and Security in 2019: Overview of EU action and outlook for the future](#)

[India: taking stock of Modi's five years](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 10-04-2019

Author D'AMBROGIO Enrico

Policy area Foreign Affairs

Keyword Asia and Oceania | common foreign and security policy | corruption | criminal law | culture and religion | economic geography | economic reform | economic structure | ECONOMICS | electoral procedure and voting | employment | EMPLOYMENT AND WORKING CONDITIONS | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | foreign policy | freedom of expression | GEOGRAPHY | Hinduism | human rights | India | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | labour law | labour law and labour relations | LAW | national election | political framework | POLITICS | rights and freedoms | rule of law | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | youth employment

Summary From 11 April to 18 May 2019, 900 million Indians are invited to take part in the world's biggest democratic event: the election of the 543 members of the Lok Sabha (lower chamber). Voting will be held across the country in seven phases and the result will be declared on 23 May. In 2014 the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) obtained the absolute majority in India's Lok Sabha, and Narendra Modi became prime minister. Enjoying a strong and undisputed mandate, Modi has generated expectations of unleashing the country's economic potential and has adopted many flagship initiatives in a bid to change the country. In the last five years, India has overtaken China as the fastest growing economy, becoming the world's sixth biggest economy and a space power. Doing business in the country has become easier. Poverty has been reduced. The government succeeded in introducing major fiscal unification reform and a new law on bankruptcy. It failed, however, to create the necessary stock of jobs for young people or to promote long-awaited labour reforms. The situation for farmers has worsened, and an overnight demonetisation hindered progress among small businesses and rural communities, while failing to bring real advances in the fight against corruption. State banks hold large stocks of bad loans and the government has increased pressure on the central bank and on its independence. Hindu nationalism and religious intolerance, pressure on freedom of expression, possible state intrusion into privacy, citizenship issues and other topics have been matters for concern in the area of human rights, although the country remains a robust democracy governed by the rule of law. Modi has increased the country's presence in the global arena, although the framework of India's relations with the major powers has not changed. Following two summits in 2016 and 2017, the EU and India have embarked on a road towards cooperation on non-trade issues. Trade has meanwhile stagnated and little progress has been made in negotiations on a trade and investment agreement.

Briefing [EN](#)

[China \[What Think Tanks are thinking\]](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 08-02-2019

Author CESLUK-GRAJEWSKI Marcin

Policy area Foreign Affairs

Keyword America | Asia and Oceania | bibliography | China | common foreign and security policy | communications | documentation | economic geography | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EU relations | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | foreign policy | GEOGRAPHY | geopolitics | humanities | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international trade | international trade | political geography | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | research and intellectual property | SCIENCE | telecommunications industry | think tank | TRADE | trade relations | United States

Summary China's increasingly autocratic domestic stance and its assertive foreign policy pose a dilemma for European Union policy-makers as to whether to treat the Asian powerhouse as a partner or a rival, or to take a position somewhere in between. Formally, the EU and China are strategic partners since 2003 - a partnership that was broadened five years ago by the EU-China 2020 Strategic Agenda for Cooperation. No EU country wants to be openly confrontational towards China, contrary to the approach of the current United States administration. However, several European governments are wary of Beijing's economic expansionism and its efforts to take the global lead in digital technologies. Controversy over China's telecoms giant Huawei has exacerbated those concerns. This note offers links to recent commentaries, studies and reports from major international think tanks on China, its ties with the EU and related issues. More studies on the topics can be found in a previous edition of 'What Think Tanks are thinking' published in September 2018.

Briefing [EN](#)

[Foreign policy and defence challenges \[What Think Tanks are thinking\]](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 18-01-2019

Author CESLUK-GRAJEWSKI Marcin

Policy area Foreign Affairs | Security and Defence

Keyword America | Asia and Oceania | China | common foreign and security policy | economic geography | EU migration policy | EU-NATO cooperation | Europe | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | foreign policy | GEOGRAPHY | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | migration | political geography | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | research and intellectual property | Russia | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | think tank | Ukraine | United Kingdom | United States | withdrawal from the EU

Summary The European Union will face increasingly serious foreign policy and defence challenges in 2019. The current Administration in the United States seems to be abandoning its traditional role of 'benign protector' of the rules-based international order. Russia, according to many analysts, continues to try to undermine the democratic process in many Western countries, and China's foreign policy is becoming more and more assertive, notably in the economic field. Furthermore, migration, Brexit and cybersecurity, as well as a lack of EU unity on certain issues, also feature amongst key challenges. This note offers links to recent selected commentaries, studies and reports from major international think tanks on EU foreign and defence policies. Links to more reports on President Donald Trump's policies, Russia, EU-China relations and NATO are available in previous items in this series, published last year.

Briefing [EN](#)

Countering hybrid threats: EU and the Western Balkans case

Publication type Study

Date 06-09-2018

External author Isabelle FACON, Nicolas MAZZUCCHI, Jean-Jacques PATRY

Policy area Security and Defence

Keyword communications | disinformation | economic geography | economic structure | ECONOMICS | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | ENERGY | energy policy | energy supply | enlargement of the Union | Europe | European construction | European neighbourhood policy | EUROPEAN UNION | foreign policy | GEOGRAPHY | geopolitics | humanities | information warfare | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | NATO | political geography | political propaganda | POLITICS | politics and public safety | post-communism | public opinion | Russia | SCIENCE | security of supply | trade | TRADE | Western Balkans | world organisations

Summary The aim of the workshop, held on 26 February 2018, was to assess and discuss the EU's approach to hybrid threats in its neighbourhood using the Western Balkans as a case study, in the context of the extensive use of propaganda by Russia and its meddling into several elections and in the aftermath of the 2014 events in Ukraine and the Russian annexation of Crimea. The first speaker, Jean-Jacques Patry, presented the concept of hybrid threat at various levels and the EU approach and measures to tackle it, particularly in the Western Balkans. The second speaker, Nicolas Mazzucchi, delivered a presentation on Russia's declining influence in the Western Balkans (on behalf of Isabelle Facon, who authored the briefing but could not attend the workshop) and added some of his own analysis on energy and cyber issues. The presentations were followed by a debate with members of the Security and Defence Committee of the European Parliament.

Study [EN](#)

A new era in EU-China relations: more wide-ranging strategic cooperation?

Publication type Study

Date 19-07-2018

Author SAARELA Anna

Policy area International Trade

Keyword Asia and Oceania | China | cooperation policy | economic conditions | economic cooperation | economic geography | economic situation | ECONOMICS | ENVIRONMENT | environmental policy | environmental policy | EU relations | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | extra-EU trade | FINANCE | financing and investment | foreign investment | foreign policy | GEOGRAPHY | geopolitics | human rights | humanities | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | international trade | investment abroad | LAW | political situation | POLITICS | politics and public safety | rights and freedoms | SCIENCE | TRADE | trade by country | trade policy | trade policy

Summary China is an important strategic partner for the EU, despite fundamental divergences in some areas, mostly related to state intervention and fundamental human rights. The partnership offers mutually beneficial cooperation and dialogue in areas ranging from investment and transport to human rights and cybersecurity. China is navigating in new directions, guided by Xi Jinping's 'Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era'. Despite President Xi's repeated avowals that 'the market will have a decisive role', public ownership remains the mainstay of the Chinese economy, whereas profound reforms would be needed to tackle the root causes of overcapacity in various industrial sectors. Xi's 'Belt and Road Initiative', now also included in the Constitution, is the flagship international connectivity and infrastructure programme dominated by Chinese state-owned companies. Overall, China's crucial, but complex transition towards more sustainable growth would eventually benefit both, China and the world as a whole. Global economic interdependence, however, makes certain spill-over effects of China's rebalancing unavoidable. China plays a pivotal role in global governance and the rules-based international order, and this comes with responsibilities. Beijing has begun to shift away from the narrow pursuit of national aims towards a more assertive foreign and security policy, and increased financial, economic and security cooperation with a global outreach. China is also facing domestic concerns, such as lifting millions of people out of poverty and reducing ever-growing income inequalities, deterioration in the situation of human rights and freedoms as well as endemic corruption.

Study [DE](#), [EN](#), [FR](#)

[EU-Japan cooperation on global and regional security - a litmus test for the EU's role as a global player?](#)

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 11-06-2018

Author LEGRAND Jérôme

Policy area Foreign Affairs | Security and Defence

Keyword Asia and Oceania | China | common foreign and security policy | cooperation policy | defence | defence policy | economic geography | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | Europe | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | foreign policy | GEOGRAPHY | geopolitics | humanities | information security | information technology and data processing | information warfare | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | Japan | military cooperation | North Korea | nuclear non-proliferation | political geography | POLITICS | politics and public safety | regional security | Russia | SCIENCE | territorial dispute | terrorism | the EU's international role

Summary Within their partnership, the EU and Japan recognise each other as being essentially civilian (or 'soft') powers that share the same values and act in the international arena solely with diplomatic means. However, the evolution of the threats they face and the unpredictability now shown by their strategic ally, the US, have led both the EU and Japan to reconsider the option of 'soft power-only' for ensuring their security. They have both begun the — albeit long — process of seeking greater strategic autonomy. The EU's Global Strategy adopted in 2016 aims clearly to 'develop a more politically rounded approach to Asia, seeking to make greater practical contributions to Asian security'. Like the EU, Japan has identified 'a multipolar age' in which the rules-based international order that has allowed it to prosper is increasingly threatened. In line with its security-related reforms, Japan has decided to 'take greater responsibilities and roles than before in order to maintain the existing international order' and resolve a number of global issues. The EU and Japan may increase their cooperation at the global and strategic level and in tackling these challenges at the regional or local level. The Strategic Partnership Agreement (SPA) between the EU and Japan will provide opportunities for such cooperation, which should also be open to others. This is an opportunity for the EU to demonstrate that it is a consistent and reliable partner, and a true 'global player'. The Council Conclusions of 28 May 2018 on 'Enhanced security cooperation in and with Asia' are a step in this direction but need to be translated into action.

[In-Depth Analysis](#) [EN](#)

[China's foreign influence operations in Western liberal democracies: An emerging debate](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 15-05-2018

Author GRIEGER Gisela

Policy area Foreign Affairs

Keyword Asia and Oceania | China | communications | disinformation | economic geography | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | foreign policy | GEOGRAPHY | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | political propaganda | POLITICS | politics and public safety | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | research and intellectual property | think tank

Summary A debate is gaining traction in Western democracies about the nature, extent and the implications of, as well as possible responses to, China's growing efforts to influence Western political elites, academia, think-tanks, and media through what has recently been labelled 'sharp power'. This debate reflects different levels of concern in Australia, New Zealand, the USA, and the European Union.

[At a Glance](#) [EN](#)

[Energy as a tool of foreign policy of authoritarian states, in particular Russia](#)

Publication type Study

Date 27-04-2018

External author Rem Korteweg

Policy area Energy | Foreign Affairs | International Trade

Keyword America | Asia and Oceania | CIS countries | economic geography | ENERGY | energy diversification | energy policy | energy supply | EU energy policy | EU restrictive measure | Europe | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | foreign policy | gas pipeline | GEOGRAPHY | geopolitics | Gulf States | humanities | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | natural gas | oil industry | organisation of transport | political geography | price of energy | Russia | SCIENCE | security of supply | trade | TRADE | TRANSPORT | Ukraine | Venezuela

Summary Russia and other energy-rich authoritarian states use their energy exports for economic gains but also as a tool of foreign policy leverage. This study looks at the ways and methods these states have used to exert political pressure through their energy supplies, and what it means for the European Union. Most energy-rich authoritarian states use their energy wealth to ensure regime survival. But, more than others, Russia uses its energy wealth as well to protect and promote its interests in its 'near abroad' and to make its geopolitical influence felt further afield, including in Europe. It uses gas supplies to punish and to reward, affecting both transit states and end-consumers. This study explores how supply disruptions, price discounts or hikes, and alternative transit routes such as Nord Stream 2 and Turkish Stream, are used by Russia to further its foreign policy ambitions, feeding suspicions about its geopolitical motives. The lack of transparency about Russia's energy policy decisions contributes to this. In response, the EU is building an Energy Union based around the Third Energy Package, a more integrated European market and diversified supplies. By investing in new supplies, such as LNG, and completing a liberalised energy market, the EU will be better able to withstand such energy coercion and develop a more effective EU foreign policy.

[Study](#) [EN](#)

Rebuilding the Iraqi State: Stabilisation, Governance, and Reconciliation

Publication type Study

Date 15-12-2017

Author JONGBERG Kirsten

External author Renad MANSOUR, Research Fellow, Chatham House, United Kingdom

Policy area Foreign Affairs | Human Rights | Security and Defence

Keyword America | Asia and Oceania | corruption | criminal law | economic geography | economic policy | ECONOMICS | electoral procedure and voting | electoral reform | Europe | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | executive power and public service | forced migration | foreign policy | GEOGRAPHY | geopolitics | governance | humanities | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | Iran | Iraq | judicial reform | Kurdistan question | LAW | migration | organisation of the legal system | political geography | political situation | POLITICS | politics and public safety | public order | Saudi Arabia | SCIENCE | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | state-building | structural adjustment | the EU's international role | Türkiye | United States

Summary The victory over the so-called Islamic State's territorial rule presents a chance for the Government of Iraq to rebuild its state institutions and re-assert its authority. In this transition, will the Iraqi leadership move past cycles of failure and address the structural problems that perpetuate state weakness and facilitate the emergence of groups like ISIS? To answer this question, this paper analyses the challenges of short-term stabilisation programming with longer-term governance reform at the local and national levels. It argues that, without establishing representative and responsive state institutions, the processes of reconciliation and integration will be unsuccessful. To conclude, this paper offers policy recommendations on how the EU can support the upcoming state-rebuilding process.

Study [EN](#)

Trade and Economic relations between the EU and the GCC countries

Publication type Study

Date 06-12-2017

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Policy area International Trade

Keyword Asia and Oceania | common commercial policy | economic analysis | economic conditions | economic consequence | economic geography | economic independence | economic policy | economic situation | ECONOMICS | EU relations | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | fiscal policy | foreign policy | GCC countries | GEOGRAPHY | geopolitics | humanities | industrial policy | industrial structures and policy | INDUSTRY | international affairs | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | international trade | Iran | political geography | product diversification | production | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | SCIENCE | structural adjustment | taxation | TRADE | trade by group of countries | trade policy

Summary The EU and the six member countries of the GCC have started negotiations for an FTA long ago, in 1990, suspended since 2008. Meanwhile, GCC countries, suffering from the drop in oil price since mid-2014, have engaged in extremely ambitious economic programmes for the diversification of their economies too dependent on hydrocarbons. Within the institutional economic dialogue set between the EU and the GCC countries, the European parliament offered its diplomacy to organise this conference in order to bring EU businesses closer to GCC institutional. Academic speakers, EU and GCC institutional as much as EU experienced companies praised for partnership instead of competition. This workshop opens the door to further initiatives of economic diplomacy by the European parliament.

Study [EN](#)

The United States' role in Central Asia

Publication type At a Glance

Date 22-11-2017

Author RUSSELL Martin

Policy area Foreign Affairs

Keyword America | Asia and Oceania | Central Asia | cooperation policy | development aid | economic cooperation | economic geography | ECONOMICS | energy cooperation | FINANCE | financing and investment | foreign policy | GEOGRAPHY | geopolitics | human rights | humanities | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | investment abroad | LAW | military cooperation | political geography | POLITICS | politics and public safety | regional integration | regions and regional policy | rights and freedoms | SCIENCE | terrorism | United States

Summary Geographically distant and without historical ties to the region, the USA has never been a major player in Central Asia. However, both sides stand to gain from closer ties: for the USA, Central Asian countries are key partners in meeting security challenges; for Central Asia, benefits could include increased investment and reduced dependence on Russia and China, the two main regional powers.

At a Glance [EN](#)

The EU's new approach to funding peace and security

Publication type Briefing

Date 22-11-2017

Author IMMENKAMP Beatrix

Policy area Adoption of Legislation by EP and Council | Development and Humanitarian Aid | Security and Defence

Keyword amendment of a law | conflict prevention | cooperation policy | development aid | establishment of peace | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | foreign policy | international cooperation | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | international security | military cooperation | ordinary legislative procedure | parliamentary proceedings | peacekeeping | POLITICS | proposal (EU) | regulation (EU) | settlement of disputes

Summary The link between security, peace and development is recognised by both security and development communities. However, the practical implications of this nexus still pose challenges – especially in the light of a rapidly evolving security environment. While the EU's assistance for peace and security comes in different forms – for instance through budgetary support or under common security and defence policy – the existing rules of financing under the EU budget exclude activities aimed at enhancing cooperation with the defence sector and the military in third countries. The proposed amendment to Regulation (EU) No 230/2014 of 11 March 2014 establishing the Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace (IcSP) aims to remedy this situation by creating the conditions to allow EU budgetary support for capacitybuilding programmes in third countries aimed at training and mentoring, the provision of non-lethal equipment and assistance with infrastructure improvements, and help with strengthening the capacity of military actors in order to contribute to the achievement of peaceful and inclusive societies and sustainable development. Fifth edition. The 'EU Legislation in Progress' briefings are updated at key stages throughout the legislative procedure. Please note this document has been designed for on-line viewing.

Briefing [EN](#)

Serbia's cooperation with China, the European Union, Russia and the United States of America

Publication type Study

Date 21-11-2017

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Policy area Foreign Affairs

Keyword accession to the European Union | America | Asia and Oceania | China | cooperation policy | defence | defence policy | development aid | economic geography | EU relations | Europe | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | financing and investment | foreign aid | foreign investment | foreign policy | GEOGRAPHY | geopolitics | humanities | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | international trade | Kosovo question | military cooperation | political geography | Russia | SCIENCE | Serbia | TRADE | trade by country | trade policy | trade policy | United States

Summary Since 2000, Serbia has undergone a halting yet persistent reintegration into the global economy. However, Serbian foreign policy currently faces a dilemma, as (at least) four separate powers are vying for influence within the country. This study examines Serbia's foreign policies towards the European Union (EU), the United States (US), Russia, and China, in particular examining the influence of each power with regard to foreign aid, trade, investment and security. Our analysis shows that each partner of Serbia has their own specific interest and comparative advantage in the country, with the EU focusing primarily on rule of law, aid, and increasing investment, the US on security, Russia on energy and foreign policy support, and China on infrastructure and markets. The scale of cooperation is divergent, however, and the EU accession process has pushed the EU to primus inter pares for the Serbian government. The demarcation across activities, however, means that Serbia may be able to keep its non-aligned status in the short-term. Unfortunately, the country is in an unstable equilibrium, as continued progress towards EU accession means that it will eventually have to sacrifice some independence in foreign affairs. The role of the EU in the coming years will be to emphasise the economic and security benefits that come with EU accession, while acknowledging that Serbia has its own cultural and historical links that need tending to.

Study [EN](#), [XL](#)

Saudi Arabia in the Western Balkans

Publication type At a Glance

Date 17-11-2017

Author LILYANOVA Velina

Policy area Foreign Affairs

Keyword aid to disadvantaged groups | arms trade | Asia and Oceania | Bosnia and Herzegovina | culture and religion | defence | denominational education | economic geography | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | Europe | foreign policy | GEOGRAPHY | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | Islam | political geography | POLITICS | politics and public safety | religious fundamentalism | religious institution | Saudi Arabia | Serbia | social protection | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | teaching | terrorism | TRADE | trade policy | trade policy | Western Balkans

Summary The Gulf States, along with other external players, have raised their profile in the Western Balkans in recent years. While most have set out on an economic quest, Saudi Arabia is considered to have a more ideological approach, seeking a strong role among the region's Muslims. In the 1990s Bosnian war, it provided significant aid for the Muslim cause and has stayed in the region to expand its influence, introducing stricter interpretations of Islam that are gradually taking root there.

At a Glance [EN](#)

The United States and the Western Balkans

Publication type At a Glance

Date 17-11-2017

Author LILYANOVA Velina

Policy area Foreign Affairs

Keyword aid policy | America | Bosnia and Herzegovina | cooperation policy | economic geography | enlargement of an international organisation | establishment of peace | Europe | foreign policy | GEOGRAPHY | geopolitics | humanities | international affairs | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | Kosovo | NATO | political geography | regional security | Russia | SCIENCE | United States | Western Balkans | world organisations

Summary The United States has contributed greatly to the post-war reconstruction of the Western Balkans and remains a key player. While the region is not as high on the US foreign policy agenda as in the 1990s, the USA has consistently shown commitment to its Euro-Atlantic integration. US engagement is seen as crucial in this historically volatile region, weakened by unresolved past and emerging challenges.

[At a Glance](#) [EN](#)

Facing Russia's Strategic Challenge: Security Developments from the Baltic to the Black Sea

Publication type Study

Date 17-11-2017

External author Nicolás De Pedro, Research Fellow, CIDOB, Spain; Panagiota Manoli, Research Fellow, ELIAMEP, Greece; Sergey Sukhankin, Associate Expert, ICPS, Ukraine; Theodoros Tsakiris, Research Fellow, ELIAMEP, Greece

Policy area Foreign Affairs | Security and Defence

Keyword common foreign and security policy | cooperation policy | defence | defence policy | Eastern Partnership | economic geography | ENERGY | energy policy | energy supply | Europe | European construction | European security | EUROPEAN UNION | foreign policy | GEOGRAPHY | geopolitics | humanities | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | Kaliningrad question | military cooperation | NATO | political geography | regional security | Russia | Russo-Ukrainian issue | SCIENCE | security of supply | trade | TRADE | Ukraine | world organisations

Summary The EU and NATO are facing an increasingly uncertain and complex situation on their eastern and south-eastern borders. In what the EU has traditionally conceived as its 'shared neighbourhood' with Russia and NATO its 'eastern flank', Moscow is exhibiting a growingly assertive military posture. The context of the Baltic and the Black Sea regions differs, but Russia's actions in both seem to be part of the same strategy aiming to transform the European security order and its sustaining principles. The Kremlin seems to follow similar policies and tactics, mainly through the militarisation of the Kaliningrad Oblast and Crimea as the centrepiece of its strategy of power projection vis-à-vis NATO and the EU. An all-out war remains an unlikely scenario, but frictions or accidents leading to an unwanted and uncontrolled escalation cannot be completely ruled out. Tensions and military developments take place in both the Baltic and Black seas, but are not only about them. Russia is testing the Euro-Atlantic response and resilience at large. To assess how far it might be willing to go, it is necessary to evaluate how Russia perceives the West and its actions, taking into account the deep and entrenched clash of perceptions between Brussels and Moscow, and the worldview of the latter.

[Study](#) [EN](#)

Disinformation, 'fake news' and the EU's response

Publication type At a Glance

Date 07-11-2017

Author BENTZEN Naja

Policy area Area of Freedom, Security and Justice | Culture

Keyword America | common foreign and security policy | communications | disinformation | economic geography | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | Europe | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | foreign policy | freedom of communication | GEOGRAPHY | information warfare | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | LAW | political geography | political propaganda | POLITICS | politics and public safety | rights and freedoms | Russia | social media | United States

Summary The impact of the online spread of mis- and disinformation – including false news posing as factual stories – became increasingly visible in the context of the crisis in Ukraine, and gained notoriety as a global phenomenon during the 2016 presidential election campaign in the United States. Ahead of the European elections in 2019, the EU's answers to these challenges are still only tentative.

[At a Glance](#) [EN](#)

[US decertification of the Iran nuclear deal](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 20-10-2017

Author LAZAROU Eleni

Policy area Foreign Affairs

Keyword America | Asia and Oceania | common foreign and security policy | economic geography | electrical and nuclear industries | ENERGY | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | foreign policy | GEOGRAPHY | international affairs | international agreement | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | Iran | nuclear non-proliferation | nuclear policy | political geography | United States | withdrawal from an agreement

Summary On 13 October, US President Donald Trump announced his decision not to certify Iran's compliance with the international nuclear agreement of 2015. This will likely result in a vote on the deal in Congress. The EU and the rest of the international community intend to keep to the agreement.

At a Glance [EN](#)

[The EU-Latin American Strategic Partnership: state of play and ways forward](#)

Publication type Study

Date 30-08-2017

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Policy area Democracy | Development and Humanitarian Aid | Foreign Affairs | International Trade

Keyword America | Asia and Oceania | Caribbean Islands | China | common commercial policy | economic conditions | economic geography | economic integration | economic policy | economic situation | ECONOMICS | EU relations | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | extra-European organisations | foreign policy | GEOGRAPHY | geopolitics | human rights | humanities | India | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | interparliamentary relations | Japan | Latin America | Latin American organisation | LAW | parliament | political situation | POLITICS | politics and public safety | rights and freedoms | SCIENCE | social framework | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | social situation | South Korea | TRADE | trade policy | trade policy

Summary By looking at the current social, economic and political trends in Latin America and the Caribbean and at recent developments in the EU's relation with the region, this study explores windows of opportunity for advancing the EU-Latin American strategic partnership. It is argued that, although asymmetries between Europe and Latin America might impact and diminish the bi-regional relationship, the EU is well-positioned to play a more active role in Latin America by strengthening existing institutional links, such as the strategic bi-regional partnership between the EU and the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) and the Euro-Latin America Parliamentary Assembly (EuroLat). The study concludes with tailor-made recommendations in order to advance the EU's engagement and cooperation with individual Latin American countries and with the region as a whole, both through traditional cooperative channels and through closer parliamentary links within the framework of EuroLat.

Study [EN](#), [ES](#)

[European defence – A year on from the global strategy](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 12-07-2017

Author LAZAROU Eleni

Policy area Security and Defence

Keyword common security and defence policy | cooperation policy | defence | economic geography | EU Member State | Europe | European construction | European Defence Agency | European defence policy | EUROPEAN UNION | foreign policy | GEOGRAPHY | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | military cooperation | political geography | United Kingdom | withdrawal from the EU

Summary On 7 June 2017, the Commission presented its reflection paper on 'European defence by 2025'. The paper, part of the white paper process on the future of Europe, comes almost a year after the unveiling of the European Union's global strategy on foreign and security policy, and follows 12 months of significant progress in decisions on the course of EU security and defence policy (CSDP). During the last quarter of 2016, High Representative of the EU for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice President of the Commission, Federica Mogherini, presented a set of three specific action plans to upgrade EU security and defence policy: the implementation plan on security and defence, the European defence action plan, and the implementation plan for the EU-NATO Warsaw Declaration. The three plans, which are sometimes referred to as the 'winter package on defence', detailed a series of actions to be taken in the medium- and long-term to implement the Lisbon Treaty provisions on security and defence. These are expected to lead to stronger coordination within the EU, as well as strengthen the EU defence industry and market. Debates on the future of European defence were significantly affected by two major events that took place in 2016: the decision of the United Kingdom (one of the strongest players in European defence) to withdraw from the EU; and the election of Donald Trump as President of the United States. This briefing complements an earlier version of July 2016, PE 586.607. The centrespread of this briefing presents a timeline of the major developments in EU defence policy in the year since the global strategy's release.

Briefing [EN](#)

Preliminary reference procedure

Publication type Briefing

Date 06-07-2017

Author MANKO Rafał

Policy area EU Law: Legal System and Acts

Keyword administrative powers | case law (EU) | cooperation policy | court of arbitration | Court of Justice of the European Union | criminal law | criminal law | economic geography | EU institutions and European civil service | EU law - national law | EU Member State | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | executive power and public service | foreign policy | GEOGRAPHY | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | interpretation of the law | judicial cooperation | LAW | legality | organisation of the legal system | political framework | POLITICS | sources and branches of the law | Treaty on the Functioning of the EU

Summary The preliminary reference procedure, provided for in Article 267 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU), is an institutionalised mechanism of dialogue between the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) and national courts. This dialogue serves three principal purposes. First of all, to provide national courts with assistance on questions regarding the interpretation of EU law. Secondly, to contribute to a uniform application of EU law across the Union. Thirdly, to create an additional mechanism – on top of the action for annulment of an EU act (set out in Article 263 TFEU) – for an ex post verification of the conformity of acts of the EU institutions with primary EU law (the Treaties and general principles of EU law). The scope of the preliminary reference procedure covers the entire body of EU law with the exclusion of acts under common foreign and security policy and certain limitations in the area of judicial and police cooperation in criminal matters. EU law does not have a doctrine of binding precedent such as that entertained in common law countries. Therefore, a judgment of the CJEU in a preliminary reference procedure is, strictly speaking, binding only on the national court that submitted the question, as well as on other courts in the same domestic procedure. Nonetheless, CJEU judgments interpreting EU law enjoy an authority similar to those of national supreme courts in civil law countries – national courts interpreting EU law should take them into account. Furthermore, if the CJEU decides that an act of the EU institutions is illegal, no national court may find to the contrary and consider that act legal. The decision whether to submit a preliminary reference to the CJEU rests with the national court concerned. However, if it is a court of last instance and a question of interpretation of EU law or the validity of an act of the EU institutions is necessary to decide a question before it, that court must submit a question. If it refrains from doing so, the Member State concerned may be held liable for a breach of EU law. This briefing is one in a series aimed at explaining the activities of the CJEU.

Briefing [EN](#)

Russia in the Western Balkans

Publication type At a Glance

Date 06-07-2017

Author RUSSELL Martin

Policy area Foreign Affairs

Keyword accession to the European Union | common foreign and security policy | cooperation policy | defence | economic geography | ENERGY | energy policy | energy supply | espionage | Europe | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | foreign policy | GEOGRAPHY | geopolitics | humanities | international affairs | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | military cooperation | nationalism | political framework | political geography | political propaganda | POLITICS | politics and public safety | Russia | SCIENCE | UN resolution | Western Balkans

Summary The Western Balkans have emerged as a front in Russia's geopolitical confrontation with the West. Building on close historical ties, Moscow is taking advantage of the political and economic difficulties to expand its influence, potentially undermining the region's stability.

At a Glance [EN](#)

Turkey's influence in the Western Balkans

Publication type At a Glance

Date 06-07-2017

Author PERCHOC Philippe

Policy area Foreign Affairs

Keyword Asia and Oceania | Bosnia and Herzegovina | cooperation policy | economic geography | Europe | FINANCE | financing and investment | foreign policy | GEOGRAPHY | geopolitics | humanities | international law | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | international trade | investment abroad | Kosovo | LAW | migration | migratory movement | military cooperation | political geography | recognition of a state | SCIENCE | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | TRADE | trade by country | Türkiye | Western Balkans

Summary During the Cold War, Turkey's interest in the Western Balkans remained relatively dormant, yet the wars that accompanied the breakup of Yugoslavia in the early 1990s and the active diplomacy pursued by the Turkish AK political party from 2002 onwards triggered greater Turkish involvement in the region. Nevertheless, Turkey's influence in the Western Balkans remains mainly based on cultural and educational programmes offered to those countries with a large Muslim community and steadily developing trade.

At a Glance [EN](#)

[Qatar: Rising tension in the Gulf](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 09-06-2017

Author IMMENKAMP Beatrix

Policy area Foreign Affairs

Keyword Asia and Oceania | culture and religion | diplomatic relations | economic geography | extra-European organisations | foreign policy | GEOGRAPHY | geopolitics | Gulf Cooperation Council | humanities | international affairs | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international sanctions | international security | Islam | political geography | political situation | POLITICS | politics and public safety | Qatar | regional security | religious fundamentalism | Saudi Arabia | SCIENCE | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | terrorism

Summary On 5 June 2017, several Arab nations, including Bahrain, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE), simultaneously announced that they were severing ties with Qatar, a fellow member of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC). Accusing Qatar of supporting and financing 'terrorism and extremism' in the region, the above countries announced that they would halt all land, air and sea traffic with Qatar, expel its diplomats and ask Qatari citizens to leave their territory within 14 days. Oil prices rose initially as markets responded nervously to the worst crisis to involve the GCC since its creation in 1981, but then dropped again. Any escalation in the crisis would likely lead to more sustained increases in oil and gas prices.

[At a Glance](#) [EN](#)

[China's role in Central Asia](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 07-06-2017

Author RUSSELL Martin

Policy area Foreign Affairs | International Trade

Keyword Asia and Oceania | Central Asia | China | cooperation policy | economic cooperation | economic geography | Europe | foreign policy | GEOGRAPHY | geopolitics | humanities | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | international trade | military cooperation | political geography | POLITICS | politics and public safety | Russia | SCIENCE | terrorism | TRADE | trade by country

Summary Since 2013, China's growing trade and investment in Central Asia have been boosted by its ambitious 'One Belt, One Road' project. However, China only has limited security involvement and soft power in the region, and it is not challenging Russian supremacy there for the time being.

[At a Glance](#) [EN](#)

[Serbia: 2016 country report](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 07-06-2017

Author LILYANOVA Velina

Policy area Foreign Affairs

Keyword accession criteria | civil society | communications | corruption | criminal law | documentation | economic geography | economic reform | economic structure | ECONOMICS | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | Europe | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | foreign policy | freedom of expression | GEOGRAPHY | independence of the judiciary | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | judicial reform | justice | Kosovo question | LAW | legal aid | organisation of the legal system | organised crime | pluralism in the media | political geography | POLITICS | politics and public safety | protection of minorities | report | rights and freedoms | Serbia | social affairs | SOCIAL QUESTIONS

Summary In June 2017, the European Parliament is to vote on a motion for a resolution on Serbia's 2016 country report. It acknowledges Serbia's progress with EU accession talks and its rigorous reform agenda, and highlights that dialogue with Pristina and 'rule of law' reforms remain areas for priority action.

[At a Glance](#) [DE](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FR](#), [IT](#), [PL](#)

[Kosovo: 2016 country report](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 07-06-2017

Author LILYANOVA Velina

Policy area Foreign Affairs

Keyword accession criteria | administrative reform | corruption | criminal law | economic conditions | economic situation | ECONOMICS | EU police mission | EU visa policy | Europe | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | executive power and public service | fight against crime | foreign policy | freedom of the press | GEOGRAPHY | independence of the judiciary | international law | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | judicial reform | Kosovo | Kosovo question | LAW | organisation of the legal system | political situation | POLITICS | politics and public safety | rights and freedoms | social affairs | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | stabilisation and association agreement

Summary In June, following the early election in Kosovo, the European Parliament is due to vote on a resolution on Kosovo's 2016 report. It calls for restoring the political dialogue, swift fulfilment of the Commission's two conditions for visa liberalisation and continued commitment to the dialogue with Belgrade.

[At a Glance](#) [DE](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FR](#), [IT](#), [PL](#)

Foreign policy: aims, instruments and achievements

Publication type EU Fact Sheets

Date 01-06-2017

Author TROSZCZYNSKA VAN GENDEREN Wanda

Policy area Foreign Affairs

Keyword common foreign and security policy | competence of the Member States | conflict prevention | cooperation policy | cooperation policy | EU institutions and European civil service | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | foreign policy | High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy | human rights | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | LAW | peacekeeping | rights and freedoms

Summary The EU's Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) was established in 1993 and has since been strengthened by subsequent Treaties. Today, Parliament scrutinises the CFSP and contributes to its development, in particular by supporting the European External Action Service (EEAS), the EU Special Representatives (EUSRs) and the EU's foreign delegations. Parliament's budgetary powers shape the scale and scope of the CFSP, as well as the EU financial instruments that sustain the EU's foreign activities.

EU Fact Sheets [BG](#), [CS](#), [DA](#), [DE](#), [EL](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FI](#), [FR](#), [HU](#), [IT](#), [LT](#), [LV](#), [NL](#), [PT](#), [RO](#), [SV](#), [ET](#), [HR](#), [MT](#), [PL](#), [SK](#), [SL](#)

President Trump's first months in office: The course of transatlantic relations

Publication type Briefing

Date 23-05-2017

Author LAZAROU Eleni

Policy area Foreign Affairs

Keyword America | Asia | Asia and Oceania | bilateral relations | economic geography | Europe | foreign policy | GEOGRAPHY | international affairs | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | international trade | international trade | NATO | nuclear non-proliferation | political geography | Russia | TRADE | United States | world organisations

Summary On 25 May 2017, President Trump attends the NATO Summit in Brussels, as well as meeting with top EU officials, including the Presidents of the European Commission, Jean-Claude Juncker, European Council, Donald Tusk, and European Parliament, Antonio Tajani. A review of Trump's term thus far (using the 100-day benchmark) sheds light on current issues in transatlantic affairs in the context of this visit. While an address to Congress on 3 May by the Secretary of State, Rex Tillerson, has helped to clarify the administration's approach, the implications of Trump's 'America First' policy for EU-US cooperation are still far from clear. Unpredictability has marked President Trump's time in office to date, and many analysts are yet to discern a firm strategic direction in his foreign policies. His proposed budget cuts for FY2018 have raised concerns on both sides of the Atlantic over a potential US retreat from its leadership on human rights and development. He has rolled back emissions regulations in the USA, but has not yet pulled out of the Paris Agreement, as promised during his campaign. Relations with Russia have fluctuated significantly. Trump has also notably altered his stance on certain issues; for example, he has acknowledged the importance of NATO, and sought to maintain good ties with China. Thus far his policy towards the Middle East has not constituted a radical departure from that of the previous administration, though as with his interactions with other world leaders, he has brought a personal touch to his exchanges with leaders from the region. Since the EU and US share common interests and cooperate in many areas, Trump's disjointed approach has caused uncertainty in Europe. President Trump has not publicly addressed relations with the EU in the first months of his presidency, beyond acknowledging the value of a strong Europe during an April meeting with the Italian Prime Minister. Thus, the outcome of this Brussels visit will be important in establishing how EU-US relations will develop under the new administration.

Briefing [EN](#)

South Korea's presidential election: Potential for a new EU role in the Korean Peninsula

Publication type Briefing

Date 08-05-2017

Author D'AMBROGIO Enrico

Policy area Foreign Affairs

Keyword Asia and Oceania | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business ethics | business organisation | candidate | economic conditions | economic geography | economic situation | ECONOMICS | electoral procedure and voting | EU relations | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | foreign policy | GEOGRAPHY | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | North Korea | political morality | political situation | POLITICS | politics and public safety | presidential election | regional security | South Korea

Summary South Korea has been shaken by a succession of corruption scandals involving politicians, judges, senior officials, businessmen and even academics. Impeachment of the country's first female president, the conservative Park Guen-hye, was confirmed by the Constitutional Court, and snap Presidential elections take place on 9 May 2017. Moon Jae-in, a liberal politician and a leading Minjoo (Democratic Party) personality, leads the polls and is the prospective next President of South Korea. Whoever will run the country is expected to launch an era of political and constitutional reform, as well as reducing the power of the chaebol, business conglomerates which enjoy outsize influence and impunity. Moon and the Minjoo are critical of deployment of the US-developed anti-missile shield, Terminal High-Altitude Area Defense (THAAD). A new direction to relations with North Korea is also expected, with a shift from military deterrence to an engagement attitude. This new course could favour stability in the region, paving the way for a new role for the European Union, which could offer its experience in dialogue and integration to engage in a possible future denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula.

Briefing [EN](#)

Transformation of China and global economic interdependence

Publication type Study

Date 26-04-2017

Policy area Foreign Affairs | International Trade

Keyword anti-dumping legislation | Asia and Oceania | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | China | common commercial policy | competition | economic conditions | economic geography | economic situation | economic structure | economic system | ECONOMICS | EU relations | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | financing and investment | foreign investment | foreign policy | GEOGRAPHY | human rights | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | investment abroad | LAW | political situation | POLITICS | politics and public safety | rights and freedoms | TRADE | trade policy | trade policy

Summary China is a natural strategic partner for the EU, despite fundamental divergences in some areas, mostly related to state intervention, both in economic and social affairs. Due to growing tensions and geopolitical unpredictability, there is a window of opportunity to develop closer ties between the EU and China. The partnership offers mutually beneficial opportunities, such as comprehensive agreements on investment and on the protection of geographical indications; aviation and maritime cooperation; and dialogues on human rights and legal affairs. China is navigating a crucial but complex transformation towards more sustainable growth by rebalancing from investment to consumption and from manufacturing to services. Overall, this transition is expected to benefit both China and the world as a whole. Due to economic interdependence, it is also likely to produce certain spill-over effects that will vary by country and by region. Global integration is fundamental for all economies and no one has an interest in a trade war or protectionism. Maintaining public ownership as the mainstay of the Chinese economy is not sustainable. Reforms are needed to tackle the root causes of overcapacity in various industrial sectors and the role of state owned enterprises. Domestic concerns, such as lifting millions of people out of poverty and reducing ever-growing income inequalities as well as endemic corruption, need to be addressed. China now plays a crucial role in global governance, the rules-based international order and meeting commitments made in the G20 framework — achieving 'major country' status comes with responsibilities. Beijing has demonstrated some movement in shifting away from the pursuit of narrow national aims towards a more active foreign and security policy and increased global financial, economic and peace cooperation. At the same time, China has been increasingly assertive in its Asian neighbourhood and it has called for restraint from all sides to prevent rapidly escalating tensions on the Korean peninsula from turning into a disastrous conflict.

Study [DE](#), [EN](#), [FR](#), [IT](#)

EU-Belarus relations: Delicate ties under strain

Publication type Briefing

Date 25-04-2017

Author BENTZEN Naja

Policy area Foreign Affairs

Keyword Belarus | civil society | economic geography | EU finance | EU financing | EU relations | EU restrictive measure | Europe | European construction | European neighbourhood policy | EUROPEAN UNION | foreign policy | GEOGRAPHY | geopolitics | government violence | human rights | humanities | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | international trade | LAW | political geography | political situation | POLITICS | politics and public safety | repression | rights and freedoms | Russia | Russo-Ukrainian issue | SCIENCE | TRADE | trade relations

Summary Belarus – a hesitant participant in the Eastern Partnership (EaP) and traditionally one of Russia's closest allies – has long tested the limits of the EU's policy projection. The main sticking point in EU-Belarus relations has been and still remains Minsk's reluctance to commit to democracy, as well as to political and civil rights. In the light of 'positive political developments' in relations between the European Union and Belarus – owing not least to the Belarusian authorities' release of six political prisoners in August 2015 – the Council lifted some restrictive measures on Belarus in February 2016, while extending others for a further year. The Ukraine crisis – during which Minsk hosted important ceasefire talks – appeared to spark a rethink in both Minsk and Brussels. Growing frictions with Moscow and the continued economic recession in Russia have put pressure on the social contract between Belarus's leadership and its citizens, increasing the incentives for Belarus to mend ties with the West, including the EU. However, Minsk's crackdown on recent protest waves have sparked criticism from the EU and rekindled concern over long-standing president Alexander Lukashenko's poor human rights record.

Briefing [EN](#)

[Eurasian Economic Union: The rocky road to integration](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 20-04-2017

Author RUSSELL Martin

Policy area Foreign Affairs | International Trade

Keyword CIS countries | common market | customs union | economic conditions | economic geography | economic integration | economic policy | economic situation | economic structure | ECONOMICS | EU institutions and European civil service | EU relations | Europe | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | foreign policy | GEOGRAPHY | geopolitics | humanities | institutional structure | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | international trade | liberalisation of trade | political geography | Russia | SCIENCE | tariff policy | TRADE | trade dispute | trade policy | trade policy

Summary Since the 1991 breakup of the Soviet Union, various attempts have been made to re-integrate the economies of its former republics. However, little progress was made until Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan launched a Customs Union in 2010. In 2015, this was upgraded to a Eurasian Economic Union (EEU). Modelled in part on the EU, this bloc aims to create an EU-style Eurasian internal market, with free movement of goods, services, persons and capital. So far, the EEU's performance has been poor. Trade has slumped; this has more to do with Russia's economic downturn than the effects of economic integration, but there are signs that the new bloc is favouring protectionism over openness to global trade, which in the long term could harm competitiveness. Especially following the showdown between the EU and Russia over Ukraine, the EEU is widely seen in the West as a geopolitical instrument to consolidate Russia's post-Soviet sphere of influence. Fear of Russian domination and trade disputes between EEU member states are hindering progress towards the EEU's economic objectives. However, prospects may improve when Russia comes out of recession. The EEU is developing relations with third countries, such as Vietnam, which in 2015 became the first to sign a free-trade agreement with the bloc. For its part, the EU has declined to recognise the EEU as a legitimate partner until Russia meets its commitments under the Minsk agreements to help end the conflict in eastern Ukraine.

Briefing [EN](#)

[Possible impacts of Brexit on EU development and humanitarian policies](#)

Publication type Study

Date 05-04-2017

External author Iliana OLIVIE, senior analyst, and Aitor PÉREZ, senior research fellow, Elcano Royal Institute, Spain

Policy area Development and Humanitarian Aid

Keyword aid system | budget | budgetary expenditure | cooperation policy | development aid | development policy | economic geography | economic policy | ECONOMICS | EDF | EU aid | EU expenditure | EU finance | EU policy - national policy | Europe | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union membership | FINANCE | foreign policy | GEOGRAPHY | humanitarian aid | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | Member States' contribution | political geography | the EU's international role | United Kingdom

Summary Brexit could have a major impact on EU development and humanitarian policies. However, although Brexit is highly likely to happen, there are still uncertainties about the UK's new foreign policy approach and its repercussions on aid. The UK may act under three different scenarios (nationalist, realist, cosmopolitan) with different consequences for EU aid. The UK's leaving would challenge the EU's role as the world's leading donor: EU aid may decrease by up to 3 % and it could lose between 10 % and 13 % of its world aid share. Its presence, through ODA, in neighbouring countries throughout Eastern Europe and North Africa could be particularly affected, with a cut of between 1 % and 4 %, depending on different scenarios. The EU could react to Brexit by adopting two distinct approaches to foreign policy and development cooperation: either limiting its role to that of a regional power or growing to become a global leader. In the first approach, Brexit would have a very mild effect and would lead to very few policy challenges. However, in the second, the EU would need to compensate for the loss of Britain's contribution to EU aid, both in quantitative and qualitative terms.

Study [EN](#)

[How Congress and President shape US foreign policy](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 30-03-2017

Author DEL MONTE Micaela | LAZAROU Eleni

Policy area Foreign Affairs

Keyword America | budget | budget financing | constitution | cooperation policy | economic geography | ENVIRONMENT | environmental policy | environmental policy | executive power | FINANCE | foreign policy | GEOGRAPHY | international affairs | international agreement | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | international trade | LAW | legislative power | political framework | political geography | POLITICS | sources and branches of the law | third country | TRADE | trade agreement | trade policy | trade policy | United Nations | United States | UNO

Summary The United States Constitution regulates the conduct of American foreign policy through a system of checks and balances. The Constitution provides both Congress and the President, as the legislative and executive branches respectively, with the legal authority to shape relations with foreign nations. It recognises that only the federal government is authorised to conduct foreign policy; that federal courts are competent in cases arising under treaties; and declares treaties the supreme law of the land. The Constitution also lists the powers of Congress, including the 'power of the purse' (namely the ability to tax and spend public money on behalf of the federal government), the power to regulate commerce with foreign nations, the power to declare war and the authority to raise and support the army and navy. At the same time, the President is the Commander-in-Chief of the United States (US) army and navy and, although Congressional action is required to declare war, it is generally agreed that the President has the authority to respond to attacks against the US and to lead the armed forces. While the President's powers are substantial, they are not without limits, due to the role played by the legislative branch. In light of the discussion of the foreign policy options of the new administration under President Donald Trump, this briefing specifically explores the powers conferred to conclude international agreements, to regulate commerce with foreign nations, to use military force and to declare war. It also explains how Congress performs its oversight – or 'watchdog' – functions with regard to foreign policy, the tools at its disposal, and the role of committees in the process.

Briefing [EN](#)

Syrian crisis: Impact on Lebanon

Publication type Briefing

Date 30-03-2017

Author IMMENKAMP Beatrix

Policy area Foreign Affairs

Keyword access to education | aid to refugees | Asia and Oceania | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | cooperation policy | crisis management | economic analysis | economic conditions | economic consequence | economic geography | economic situation | ECONOMICS | education | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EU finance | EU financing | European construction | European neighbourhood policy | EUROPEAN UNION | financial aid | forced migration | foreign policy | GEOGRAPHY | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | Lebanon | management | migration | political geography | political situation | POLITICS | politics and public safety | refugee | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | Syria

Summary The crisis in Syria has had a significant impact on neighbouring countries over the past six years. Five million Syrians have fled to Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq and Egypt, putting host countries and communities under great pressure. Moreover, violence has spilled over into some neighbouring countries, including Lebanon. The impact of the Syrian crisis on Lebanon has been immense. Since the outbreak of the crisis in 2011, up to 1.5 million displaced persons are believed to have crossed the border into Lebanon, formerly home to around 4.5 million people. The population has grown by an unprecedented 30 % in under four years, making Lebanon the country with the highest per capita concentration of refugees worldwide. The situation in neighbouring Syria has exacerbated Lebanon's political instability, and led to political deadlock for the past three years. This, in turn, has made it impossible to tackle some urgent challenges arising from the refugee presence, and from underlying structural problems with the delivery of basic services to the Lebanese population. Moreover, there are concerns, particularly among Christians, Shias and Druze, that a large number of Syrian Sunni Muslims could upset the delicate sectarian balance in Lebanon's multi-confessional political system. In light of Lebanon's experience with up to 280 000 Palestine refugees, its population is united in its opposition to a lasting refugee presence in the country. The Lebanese government insists that the presence of refugees from Syria is 'temporary', despite the absence of reasonable prospects for their safe return to their homeland in the foreseeable future. The international community has stepped in to help countries in the region cope with the influx of large numbers of vulnerable people. Emphasis has shifted from traditional humanitarian aid to 'resilience building'. This implies creating the long-term conditions that will allow Syrians to build a future for themselves and their children in the region, including acquiring the skills and tools to re-build their own country once they are able to return. The EU is co-hosting an international conference on 'Supporting the future of Syria and the region' on 5 April 2017, which will assess where the international community stands collectively in helping the region cope with the crisis.

Briefing [EN](#)

Nuclear Proliferation in North East Asia

Publication type Study

Date 23-03-2017

External author Benjamin HAUTECOUVERTURE (Fondation pour la Recherche Strategique - FRS, Paris, France)

Policy area Foreign Affairs | Security and Defence

Keyword America | arms policy | Asia and Oceania | ballistic missile | China | cooperation policy | defence | economic geography | electrical and nuclear industries | ENERGY | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | foreign policy | GEOGRAPHY | international affairs | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international sanctions | international security | military cooperation | North Korea | nuclear non-proliferation | nuclear test | nuclear weapon | political geography | regional security | settlement of disputes | South Korea | the EU's international role | United States

Summary The nuclear dimension of the crisis in the Korean peninsula has been compounded since the end of the Cold war, particularly since the North Korean regime announced its withdrawal from the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) in January 2003. The nuclear and ballistic programmes of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) have dangerously improved since the beginning of the decade and seem to have accelerated since 2014 in spite of the continuous strengthening of the international sanctions regime against Pyongyang's Weapons of Mass Destruction programmes. Accordingly, tensions have risen dramatically in the Korean peninsula. In the current context, the resumption of the six-party talks – deadlocked since the spring of 2007 - remains very hypothetical. It is clearly dependent on a change of attitude on Pyongyang's part, something hardly predictable. Even if 'strategic patience' towards North Korea has been challenged for some time, it may be that there is no better alternative to this policy. Comprehensively conceived, it should be understood as a strong policy of containment of the North Korean nuclear crisis in order to make possible the return of Pyongyang to negotiations. As a subsidiary issue, it could be asked whether the EU could play a renewed role as regards to nuclear and ballistic proliferation in North East Asia.

Study [EN](#)

[Challenges to Freedom of the Seas and Maritime Rivalry in Asia](#)

Publication type [In-Depth Analysis](#)

Date 14-03-2017

External author Patrick HÉBRARD (Fondation pour la recherche stratégique - FRS, Paris, France)

Policy area [Foreign Affairs](#) | [International Trade](#) | [Security and Defence](#)

Keyword [America](#) | [ASEAN](#) | [Asia and Oceania](#) | [Australia](#) | [China](#) | [cooperation policy](#) | [defence](#) | [defence policy](#) | [economic cooperation](#) | [economic geography](#) | [EU relations](#) | [European construction](#) | [EUROPEAN UNION](#) | [extra-European organisations](#) | [foreign policy](#) | [GEOGRAPHY](#) | [geopolitics](#) | [humanities](#) | [international affairs](#) | [international law](#) | [INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS](#) | [INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS](#) | [international security](#) | [Japan](#) | [LAW](#) | [law of the sea](#) | [maritime and inland waterway transport](#) | [maritime shipping](#) | [political geography](#) | [regional security](#) | [SCIENCE](#) | [shipping policy](#) | [South Asia](#) | [territorial dispute](#) | [TRANSPORT](#) | [UN convention](#) | [United States](#)

Summary China's New Maritime Silk Road policy poses geostrategic challenges and offers some opportunities for the US and its allies in Asia-Pacific. To offset China's westward focus, the US seeks to create a global alliance strategy with the aim to maintain a balance of power in Eurasia, to avoid a strong Russia-China or China-EU partnership fostered on economic cooperation. For the EU, the 'One Belt, One Road' (OBOR) initiative by improving infrastructure may contribute to economic development in neighbouring countries and in Africa but present also risks in terms of unfair economic competition and increased Chinese domination. Furthermore, China's behaviour in the South China Sea and rebuff of the ruling of the Permanent Court of Arbitration, in July 2016, put the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) at risk with possible consequences to freedom of the seas. Increasing relations with China could also affect EU-US relations at a time of China-US tension. To face these challenges, a stronger EU, taking more responsibility in Defence and Security, including inside NATO, is needed.

[In-Depth Analysis](#) [EN](#)

[A global strategy on foreign and security policy for the EU](#)

Publication type [Briefing](#)

Date 02-03-2017

Author PAWLAK Patryk

Policy area [Global Governance](#) | [Security and Defence](#)

Keyword [air and space transport](#) | [armed forces](#) | [common security and defence policy](#) | [communications](#) | [computer crime](#) | [cooperation policy](#) | [defence](#) | [drone](#) | [economic analysis](#) | [economic geography](#) | [ECONOMICS](#) | [EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS](#) | [EU civilian mission](#) | [EU Member State](#) | [EU Military Committee](#) | [EU military mission](#) | [EU statistics](#) | [European construction](#) | [European defence policy](#) | [EUROPEAN UNION](#) | [foreign policy](#) | [GEOGRAPHY](#) | [information technology and data processing](#) | [INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS](#) | [international security](#) | [Internet](#) | [military cooperation](#) | [satellite communications](#) | [third country](#) | [TRANSPORT](#)

Summary Tracking European Commission priority initiatives in 2017 – Number 1 The letter from Donald Tusk, President of the European Council, of 31 January 2017, notes that 'the challenges currently facing the European Union are more dangerous than ever before in the time since the signature of the Treaty of Rome'. Indeed, the current evolving international environment and geopolitical shifts highlight the need for effective and coherent implementation of the EU global strategy. The top strategic priorities for the implementation of the strategy, as decided by the Foreign Affairs Council on 17 October 2016 include: security and defence; building resilience and an integrated approach to conflicts and crises; addressing the internal/external security nexus; updating existing strategies and preparing new ones; and enhancing public diplomacy. Strengthening EU cooperation on external security and defence was also discussed at the European Council meeting in December 2016. Heads of State or Government focused on three priorities: implementation of the EU global strategy in the security and defence area, the European defence action plan, and the implementation of the EU-NATO Joint Declaration signed in Warsaw in July 2016. The first implementation report is expected in June 2017. This is an updated edition of a briefing published in April 2016.

[Briefing](#) [EN](#)

[Possible adjustments to the EU institutional set-up](#)

Publication type [At a Glance](#)

Date 10-02-2017

Author TILINDYTE-HUMBURG Laura

Policy area [EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law](#)

Keyword [electoral procedure and voting](#) | [ENERGY](#) | [energy policy](#) | [energy policy](#) | [EU institutions and European civil service](#) | [EU migration policy](#) | [European construction](#) | [European integration](#) | [European treaties](#) | [EUROPEAN UNION](#) | [European Union law](#) | [foreign policy](#) | [institutional reform](#) | [INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS](#) | [international security](#) | [migration](#) | [national parliament](#) | [parliament](#) | [POLITICS](#) | [politics and public safety](#) | [powers of the institutions \(EU\)](#) | [referendum](#) | [SOCIAL QUESTIONS](#)

Summary The last comprehensive EU treaty reform ended with the 2007 Lisbon Treaty. With the EU facing multiple challenges since then, the European Parliament's own-initiative report, due to be discussed in February, on possible evolutions of and adjustments to the EU institutional set-up invites a broad reflection on the future of the Union. It suggests a range of reforms, including in the areas of economic governance, foreign policy, fundamental rights, transparency, accountability and others.

[At a Glance](#) [EN](#)

StratCom tools: US international broadcasting

Publication type At a Glance

Date 01-02-2017

Author BENTZEN Naja

Policy area Foreign Affairs

Keyword America | broadcasting | communications | communications policy | economic geography | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | Europe | foreign policy | freedom of the press | GEOGRAPHY | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | LAW | political geography | political propaganda | POLITICS | politics and public safety | rights and freedoms | Russia | United States

Summary US international broadcasting has been a key instrument in the country's strategic communications (StratCom) toolbox since World War II. Whereas growing propaganda efforts from foreign state and non-state actors have boosted calls for reforms, there is uncertainty over the future US direction.

At a Glance [EN](#)

Russia's National Security Strategy and Military Doctrine and their Implications for the EU

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 01-02-2017

External author Isabelle FACON (Fondation pour la Recherche Stratégique - FRS, Paris, France)

Policy area Democracy | Foreign Affairs | Security and Defence

Keyword armed forces | common foreign and security policy | cooperation policy | cooperation policy | defence | defence policy | diplomatic relations | East-West relations | economic geography | EU relations | Europe | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | foreign policy | GEOGRAPHY | geopolitics | humanities | international affairs | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | international security | NATO | political geography | Russia | SCIENCE | Ukraine | world organisations

Summary The European Union sees its relationship with Russia as a 'key strategic challenge'. Its members are alarmed by Russia's violations of international commitments and increased military activity in Europe. Russian recently updated basic strategic documents are full of indications about Moscow's world vision and security concerns. They indirectly point to a tension between Russia's internal (economic, demographic, societal) weaknesses and its claim to be recognized as one of the 'centers of influence' in the emerging multipolar world order. The West, including the EU, is clearly perceived as the major challenger to both Russia's great power ambition and security. At the same time, various indicators suggest that Moscow is probably not fully confident that it will obtain a gratifying role in the emerging new international landscape. All this has led Russia to rely massively on its restored military capabilities, while pursuing a very active diplomacy, in which the relative importance of the EU has declined in recent years. The EU nonetheless has an important role to play in promoting the second engine of the 'double-track Russia strategy' that the West (the EU, NATO, the United States) has been pursuing — strengthening defenses on the one hand, pursuing dialogue and cooperative engagement on the other hand.

In-Depth Analysis [EN](#)

The 2016 Elections in the United States: Effects on the EU-US Relationship

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 17-01-2017

External author Nicolas BOUCHET (The German Marshall Fund of the United States, USA)

Policy area Democracy | Foreign Affairs | International Trade | Security and Defence

Keyword America | bicameral system | economic geography | economic relations | EU relations | EU-NATO cooperation | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | executive power and public service | foreign policy | GEOGRAPHY | government policy | head of State | international affairs | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | international security | international trade | interparliamentary relations | NATO | parliament | political framework | political geography | political party | POLITICS | politics and public safety | populism | Republican Party | terrorism | TRADE | trade relations | transatlantic relations | United States | world organisations

Summary Despite (or because of) Donald Trump's various campaign statements, it is hard to predict confidently what path his administration will take in a wide range of foreign-policy areas. It is however possible to identify key issues and challenges in EU-US relations during his presidency. This briefing provides an overview of issues where US policy may change sharply during the next four years and what this may mean for the EU. Less interventionism, less commitment to NATO and a retreat from trade liberalization could be central to Trump's presidency. Transatlantic relations would be affected by US actions such as rapprochement with Russia and a softer line on the Ukraine conflict, alignment with Assad and Putin in Syria, extreme counterterrorism measures, abandoning the Iran nuclear deal, and unconditional support for Israel. Confrontation with China over trade and regional security, and reversal of environmental policies will also have repercussions for the EU. In order to mitigate all these risks, the EU must at least entrench existing cooperation with the US before trying to enhance it. It can do so by reaffirming European unity and solving threats to its integration, by becoming a better security "producer" and by "thickening" interparliamentary exchanges.

In-Depth Analysis [EN](#)

The 2016 “Winter Package” on European Security and Defence: Constitutional, Legal and Institutional Implications

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 16-12-2016

External author Steven Blockmans (CEPS and University of Amsterdam, the Netherlands)

Policy area EU Law: Legal System and Acts

Keyword air and space transport | air force | armed forces | common security and defence policy | communications | computer crime | cooperation policy | defence | drone | economic analysis | economic geography | ECONOMICS | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EU Member State | EU Military Committee | EU military mission | EU statistics | European construction | European defence policy | European security | EUROPEAN UNION | foreign policy | GEOGRAPHY | information technology and data processing | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | Internet | military cooperation | satellite communications | TRANSPORT

Summary This study was commissioned by the European Parliament's Policy Department for Citizens' Rights and Constitutional Affairs at the request of the Committee on Constitutional Affairs of the European Parliament. It examines a series of constitutional, legal and institutional implications of the proposals endorsed by the December 2016 European Council for the further development of the Common Security and Defence Policy in the framework of the current Treaties.

In-Depth Analysis [EN](#)

Relations between the EU Member States and Saudi Arabia in the Field of Security and Defence

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 14-12-2016

External author Agnès LEVALLOIS (Fondation pour la recherche stratégique, FRS) and Jane KINNINMONT (Chatham House) with contribution from Antoine VAGNEUR-JONES (Fondation pour la recherche stratégique, FRS)

Policy area Foreign Affairs | Security and Defence

Keyword arms trade | Asia and Oceania | common security and defence policy | cooperation policy | defence | economic geography | EU Member State | EU relations | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | export (EU) | extra-European organisations | foreign policy | GEOGRAPHY | Gulf Cooperation Council | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | military cooperation | political geography | regional security | Saudi Arabia | trade | TRADE

Summary The workshop was organized on October 13, 2016 at the initiative of the Subcommittee on Security and Defence (SEDE) with the aim of assessing relations between Saudi Arabia and the Member States in the field of armaments cooperation, touching on the absence of a common European position in this area. Agnès Levallois, lecturer at Sciences Po Paris and ENA, is affiliated to the Académie Diplomatique and works as a consultant, specialising in political, strategic and economic issues in the Middle East. Jane Kinninmont is a senior research fellow and deputy head of the Middle East and North Africa programme at Chatham House.

In-Depth Analysis [EN](#)

The European Council and European defence cooperation: Developments since June 2016

Publication type Briefing

Date 12-12-2016

Author ANGHEL Suzana Elena

Policy area Security and Defence

Keyword air and space transport | air force | common security and defence policy | communications | computer crime | cooperation policy | defence | drone | economic analysis | economic geography | ECONOMICS | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EU civilian mission | EU institutions and European civil service | EU Member State | EU Military Committee | EU military mission | EU statistics | European construction | European Council | European defence policy | EUROPEAN UNION | foreign policy | GEOGRAPHY | information technology and data processing | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | Internet | military cooperation | satellite communications | TRANSPORT

Summary At its December 2016 meeting, the European Council will consider options for strengthening European defence cooperation. This paper focuses on security and defence developments since June 2016, when the European Council last addressed security and defence, in particular EU-NATO cooperation. It considers the process that led to the inclusion of security and defence on the December 2016 European Council agenda, as well as the expected outcome of the meeting.

Briefing [EN](#)

Republic of Korea: Impact of the Leadership Crisis and Security Threats on the Economy

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 25-11-2016

Author SAARELA Anna

Policy area Foreign Affairs | International Trade

Keyword America | Asia and Oceania | China | cooperation agreement (EU) | cooperation policy | corruption | criminal law | economic conditions | economic geography | economic situation | ECONOMICS | electrical and nuclear industries | ENERGY | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | financing and investment | foreign policy | GEOGRAPHY | head of State | human rights | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | international trade | investment | Japan | LAW | military cooperation | North Korea | nuclear policy | OECD | parliament | political framework | political geography | political parties | political party | political situation | POLITICS | politics and public safety | regional security | rights and freedoms | South Korea | TRADE | trade agreement (EU) | trade policy | trade policy | trade relations | unicameral system | United Nations | United States | UNO | world organisations | World Trade Organisation

Summary After decades of authoritarian military rule, South Korea — an East Asian nation on the southern half of the Korean Peninsula — has opened up politically. The current president, Park Guen-hye, faces a range of domestic problems. Recently, a corruption scandal triggered widespread protests and caused her approval ratings to plummet. The US continues to be an important ally in both economic and political terms, particularly in light of deteriorating relations with North Korea, whose nuclear programme has accelerated in 2016. Economically, South Korea, one of the world's most rapidly aging societies, faces major challenges despite its strong growth and export record. Measures are needed to tackle low employment among women and young people and to support the elderly as well as to promote social inclusion. The large proportion of irregular workers on the labour market accounts for the big wage gap and high relative poverty rate. Economic restructuring in China, South Korea's biggest trading partner, also has a spill-over effect. In July 2016, trade between the EU and South Korea was fully liberalised, apart from certain agricultural products, under the ambitious 'second generation' free trade agreement (FTA) signed in 2011. The FTA has benefited both sides. It does not contain an investment chapter and could be revised to incorporate one. However, public concerns in both South Korea and the EU would first have to be addressed.

[In-Depth Analysis](#) [EN](#)

The 2016 election of a new UN Secretary-General

Publication type Briefing

Date 21-10-2016

Author ZAMFIR Ionel

Policy area Global Governance

Keyword election | electoral procedure and voting | EU institutions and European civil service | EUROPEAN UNION | foreign policy | international affairs | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | international relations | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | POLITICS | transparency in decision-making | UN Secretary-General | United Nations | UNO

Summary On 13 October, the United Nations General Assembly appointed a European, António Guterres, to the post of UN Secretary-General, after a selection that was, in part, unprecedentedly transparent. For the first time in history, the nominated candidates had the opportunity to present their vision in public dialogues organised in the General Assembly with member states and civil society representatives. Guterres emerged somewhat unexpectedly as the chosen candidate – without much diplomatic wrangling in the Security Council, and defying expectations that the next secretary-general would be a woman and/or an eastern European, according to the principle of diversity which holds sway in the UN. Given his strong political and diplomatic experience and his commitment to the refugees cause (he served as head of the UN Refugee Agency), his election has raised expectations that he will improve the UN's functioning and address current global challenges, especially the Syrian crisis and the refugee crisis. In his vision statement, Guterres emphasised the importance of a 'diplomacy of peace' for his future mandate, focusing on the prevention of conflicts through political means. The commitment to human rights, sustainable development, women's empowerment and the value of diversity embodied in today's increasingly multi-ethnic, multi-cultural and multi-religious societies defines his approach to rising global challenges. He intends to make the UN more efficient and more decentralised.

[Briefing](#) [EN](#)

China's policy on the Middle East

Publication type At a Glance

Date 20-10-2016

Author GRIEGER Gisela

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues | Foreign Affairs | International Trade | Security and Defence

Keyword Asia and Oceania | bilateral relations | China | cooperation policy | economic geography | ENERGY | energy policy | energy policy | foreign policy | GEOGRAPHY | international affairs | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | Middle East | POLITICS | politics and public safety | terrorism | third country

Summary Four of the five UN Security Council (UNSC) permanent members have, to varying degrees, taken military action in the Syrian civil war. Dissatisfied with the outcome of the UN-mandated military intervention in Libya, China has not, although some of its arms deliveries to the region may have found their way to parties to the conflict. President Xi Jinping's January 2016 visit to the Middle East, in the wake of the easing of UN sanctions against Iran and the release of China's first-ever Arab policy paper, was primarily aimed at anchoring the One Belt, One Road initiative in the region as an alternative strategy focused on economic development, as a means to generate stability.

[At a Glance](#) [EN](#)

EU-India Relations — Keeping up the Momentum Needed for a Vital Strategic Partnership

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 06-09-2016

Author SAARELA Anna | VANDEWALLE Laurence

Policy area Global Governance

Keyword Asia and Oceania | bicameral system | cooperation agreement (EU) | criminal law | defence | defence policy | economic conditions | economic geography | economic situation | ECONOMICS | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | executive power and public service | FINANCE | financing and investment | foreign policy | GEOGRAPHY | head of government | human rights | India | international affairs | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | international trade | interparliamentary relations | investment | Kashmir question | LAW | negotiation of an agreement (EU) | parliament | political situation | POLITICS | politics and public safety | position of women | rights and freedoms | sexual violence | social affairs | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | summit meeting | TRADE | trade relations

Summary Relations between the EU and India seem to be back on track since leaders met in Brussels, on 30 March 2016, for their first summit in four years. They endorsed the EU-India Agenda for Action 2020 and their water, clean energy and climate partnerships; they welcomed the negotiations on a broad-based Bilateral Trade and Investment Agreement (BTIA) and agreed that the fact that they are currently stalled should not stand in the way of the overall development of the relationship. They set a common agenda on migration and mobility and they adopted a joint declaration on counter-terrorism. It is vital to keep up the momentum created at the summit. The strategic relationship is vital to both sides: India is Asia's third-largest economy and the world's fastest growing economy and the EU is India's biggest trading partner. The EU is also the largest investor in India, with foreign direct investment stock valued at EUR 38.5 billion in 2014, and is the primary destination for Indian foreign investment.

In-Depth Analysis [EN](#)

India and China: Too Close for Comfort?

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 15-07-2016

Author DATTA SHALENE | LEGRAND Jérôme | MENDONCA Susana | VANDEWALLE Laurence | VIILUP Elina

Policy area Democracy | Development and Humanitarian Aid | Environment | Foreign Affairs | Global Governance | Human Rights | International Trade | Security and Defence

Keyword Asia and Oceania | China | contemporary history | cooperation policy | cross-border cooperation | defence | defence policy | economic conditions | economic geography | economic situation | ECONOMICS | ENVIRONMENT | environmental policy | EU relations | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | foreign policy | GEOGRAPHY | geopolitics | humanities | India | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | military cooperation | regional security | SCIENCE | TRADE | trade policy | trade policy | TRANSPORT | transport infrastructure | transport policy | water management

Summary India and China — two emerging Asian giants — have historically been polar opposites in many ways and relations between them have been tense. In recent years, however, their co-operation has been improving and they have signed numerous bilateral agreements. From the EU's perspective, it is crucial to monitor the relationship between these strategic partners. Not only do these two emerging countries have the two largest populations in the world, but projections suggest that they will together account for a significant share of the world economy by the middle of the century. The EU must be able to meet the regional and even global challenges presented by the rise of China and India.

In-Depth Analysis [EN](#)

One Belt, One Road (OBOR): China's regional integration initiative

Publication type Briefing

Date 07-07-2016

Author GRIEGER Gisela

Policy area Foreign Affairs | International Trade

Keyword America | ASEAN countries | Asia and Oceania | China | economic analysis | economic consequence | economic geography | economic integration | economic policy | ECONOMICS | ENERGY | energy policy | energy supply | Europe | FINANCE | financing and investment | foreign policy | GEOGRAPHY | geopolitics | humanities | India | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | investment policy | maritime and inland waterway transport | maritime transport | political geography | Russia | SCIENCE | territorial dispute | TRADE | trade policy | trade policy | TRANSPORT | transport infrastructure | transport policy | transport policy | United States

Summary In 2013, China launched its 'One Belt, One Road' (OBOR) initiative. OBOR is China's broadly sketched vision of how it plans to boost regional integration in its wider neighbourhood. The initiative is unprecedented in terms of China's financial engagement and the innovative network-based project design which is intended to contribute to a more inclusive global governance. It contrasts sharply with existing treaty-based integration concepts where the geographical scope, partner countries, strategy, principles and rules were clearly defined at the outset. China's new development vision has been seen as an alternative to regional trade agreements which do not include it; as a strategy for asserting its leadership role in Asia in response to the US pivot to Asia; as an economic outreach towards Asian countries for resolving territorial and maritime disputes by exporting China's domestic development policies; as a means of tapping into new sources of growth to check the marked downturn in its economy; as a tool for tackling the socio-economic divide between its inland and coastal provinces; and finally, as a venue for addressing security challenges on its western periphery as well as energy security issues. The response to China's regional integration vision has been mixed. While the idea of enhancing connectivity has drawn considerable interest, given the huge infrastructure gaps across Asia, scepticism regarding China's potential hegemonic ambitions has prevailed notably among regional rivals India and Japan as well as the USA. Whether OBOR will be mutually beneficial for China and the EU will depend on the two sides agreeing on the 'rules of the game', including for joint projects in third countries. Potential synergies between OBOR and the EU connectivity initiatives are being explored under the EU-China Connectivity Platform.

Briefing [EN](#)

[Australia's double dissolution election](#)

Publication type [At a Glance](#)

Date 29-06-2016

Author BINDER Krisztina

Policy area Foreign Affairs

Keyword Asia and Oceania | Australia | bicameral system | dissolution of parliament | economic geography | election programme | electoral procedure and voting | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | foreign policy | free-trade agreement | GEOGRAPHY | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | international trade | negotiation of an agreement (EU) | parliament | parliamentary election | political framework | political geography | political parties | political party | political situation | POLITICS | politics and public safety | TRADE | two-party system

Summary On 2 July 2016, following the double dissolution of their federal Parliament, Australians will elect the 150 members of the House of Representatives (the lower house) and the 76 members of the Senate (the upper house). Domestic politics has been central to this election campaign, and the outcome of the UK's EU referendum has made political parties focus even more acutely on domestic stability. On the eve of the election, it is still difficult to predict which of the two major parties will win and whether either of them will be able to form a majority government.

[At a Glance](#) [EN](#)

[An EU Strategy for Relations with Iran after the Nuclear Deal](#)

Publication type [In-Depth Analysis](#)

Date 23-06-2016

External author Rouzbeh PARSI (European Iran Research Group, Lund University, Sweden)

Policy area Environment | Foreign Affairs | Human Rights | International Trade | Security and Defence

Keyword Asia and Oceania | common foreign and security policy | cooperation policy | criminal law | drug traffic | economic geography | economic policy | economic relations | ECONOMICS | electrical and nuclear industries | ENERGY | energy cooperation | ENVIRONMENT | environmental policy | EU relations | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | foreign policy | GCC countries | GEOGRAPHY | international affairs | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | international trade | Iran | Iraq | LAW | natural gas | nuclear policy | nuclear safety | oil industry | political geography | political situation | POLITICS | politics and public safety | regional security | sustainable development | Syria | terrorism | TRADE | trade relations | water management

Summary This report outlines the potential for a more structured and strategic relationship between the European Union and the Islamic Republic of Iran following the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). To both address areas of disagreement and complaints, as well as pursue common interests and matters of mutual benefit, the EU needs to put in place an institutional framework that can withstand the various setbacks that have, to date, derailed all previous efforts of political dialogue. There are a number of areas where both actors can benefit from cooperation; trade, environmental and sustainability issues, education, and combatting drug trade. Even when pursuing more contentious issues such as human rights, having a strategic and fully-fledged multilevel relationship will be helpful. There are also a number of political crisis in the region (ISIS, migration) where reaching a solution without Iranian involvement will either be unnecessarily costly or near impossible.

[In-Depth Analysis](#) [EN](#)

[Nagorno-Karabakh: Unstable frozen conflict](#)

Publication type [Briefing](#)

Date 21-06-2016

Author PERCHOC Philippe

Policy area Foreign Affairs

Keyword Armenia | Azerbaijan | economic geography | Europe | European construction | European neighbourhood policy | EUROPEAN UNION | foreign policy | GEOGRAPHY | geopolitics | humanities | international issue | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | political geography | regional security | Russia | SCIENCE | settlement of disputes | the EU's international role | war of independence

Summary For more than 20 years, this frozen conflict has opposed Azerbaijan on the one side and the self-proclaimed Nagorno-Karabakh authorities and Armenia on the other side. The Nagorno-Karabakh enclave in Azerbaijan, mainly populated by Armenians, declared its independence in September 1991. The non-recognition by Azerbaijan of this proclamation prompted a full-scale military conflict resulting in the de facto autonomy of Nagorno-Karabakh and the occupation of seven Azerbaijani districts after the 1994 ceasefire. The conflict has remained highly unstable since then because it is part of a complex regional 'game' between Turkey and Russia. The OSCE Minsk Group, co-chaired by France, the United States and Russia, remains the main forum in which to settle the conflict. Nevertheless, it has failed up to now to find a global peace agreement. Periodically, the situation on the ground becomes alarming, as it did in April 2016 when the conflict restarted, with dozens of people killed on both sides. Since 1994, the EU is mainly implicated in the process through the participation of France in the Minsk Group. The EU's offers of association agreements to both Armenia and Azerbaijan have not made any progress so far. The EU's leverage in the conflict has therefore been limited.

[Briefing](#) [EN](#)

[Montenegro: Towards full NATO membership](#)

Publication type [At a Glance](#)

Date 07-06-2016

Author LILYANOVA Velina

Policy area Foreign Affairs | Security and Defence

Keyword cooperation policy | economic geography | enlargement of an international organisation | Europe | foreign policy | GEOGRAPHY | international affairs | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | military cooperation | Montenegro | NATO | political geography | political situation | POLITICS | politics and public safety | regional security | Russia | Western Balkans | world organisations

Summary In May 2016, Montenegro signed its accession protocol with NATO, entering the final phase of becoming its 29th member. Although joining NATO has long been a strategic priority for the Montenegrin government, the issue is far from uncontroversial. Low public support in the country and the threat of Russian counter-measures remain major challenges to be addressed.

[At a Glance](#) [EN](#)

[Australia's 2016 Defence White Paper](#)

Publication type [At a Glance](#)

Date 06-06-2016

Author BINDER Krisztina

Policy area Foreign Affairs | Security and Defence

Keyword Asia and Oceania | Australia | China | cooperation policy | defence | defence policy | economic geography | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | foreign policy | freedom of navigation | GEOGRAPHY | information security | information technology and data processing | international law | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | LAW | military cooperation | military research | political geography | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | regional security | research and intellectual property | submarine

Summary The 2016 Defence White Paper (DWP) states that the United States will remain Australia's 'most important strategic partner', while pointing to concerns about China's growing assertiveness. Defence spending envisaged in the DWP is to increase by approximately 80% over the next ten years, with a quarter of investments going to maritime and anti-submarine warfare. Australia has also launched its largest-ever defence procurement programme, with French firm DCNS selected as its international partner for the AU\$50 billion (€34.3 billion) future submarine programme.

[At a Glance](#) [EN](#)

[EU Strategic Communications with a View to Counteracting Propaganda](#)

Publication type [In-Depth Analysis](#)

Date 26-05-2016

External author European Union Institute for Security Studies - EUISS, France

Policy area Foreign Affairs | Security and Defence

Keyword access to information | Asia and Oceania | common foreign and security policy | communications | communications policy | culture and religion | economic geography | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | Europe | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | foreign policy | GEOGRAPHY | information and information processing | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | Iraq | Islam | NATO | political geography | political propaganda | POLITICS | politics and public safety | public opinion | religious fundamentalism | Russia | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | Syria | virtual community | world organisations

Summary Emanating from Russia in the east and the so-called Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) in the south, the EU has been increasingly hit by destabilising messages amounting – in different forms and to different degrees – to coherent hostile 'strategic communications' campaigns, or the processes of infusing communications activities with an agenda or plan to impact the behaviour of a target audience. Both Russia and ISIL have engaged in aggressive messaging and deceptive media campaigns, albeit with distinct narratives, targets and audiences. This paper analyses the 'what' and the 'how': the respective narratives of each actor, their specificities, their similarities and their differences. The analysis also draws attention to strategic communications efforts undertaken by the EU, which are vectored into defensive (react and respond) and offensive (probe and push) dimensions. This understanding of the present context finally allows for an evaluation of what actions can be taken to enhance the effectiveness of the EU's own strategic communications.

[In-Depth Analysis](#) [EN](#)

[The African Union's humanitarian policy](#)

Publication type [At a Glance](#)

Date 17-05-2016

Author PICHON Eric

Policy area Development and Humanitarian Aid

Keyword African Union | aid to refugees | civil defence | cooperation policy | EU institutions and European civil service | EUROPEAN UNION | extra-European organisations | forced migration | foreign policy | humanitarian aid | institutional structure | international affairs | international aid | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | migration | POLITICS | politics and public safety | SOCIAL QUESTIONS

Summary Africa is the continent that receives the most humanitarian aid. African countries are not big donors, but many of them host large populations of displaced people. The African Union (AU) has developed a framework outlining innovative humanitarian principles and tools to prevent and mitigate crises, and since 2010 more coordinated action from AU states has been taking shape.

[At a Glance](#) [EN](#)

[Brazil's humanitarian policy](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 17-05-2016

Author LAZAROU Eleni

Policy area Development and Humanitarian Aid

Keyword America | Brazil | cooperation policy | economic geography | EU institutions and European civil service | EUROPEAN UNION | food aid | foreign policy | GEOGRAPHY | health | humanitarian aid | hunger | institutional structure | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | political geography | SOCIAL QUESTIONS

Summary Brazil has been referred to as an emerging player in humanitarian policy, shaping its action largely on the basis of its own domestic social policies, particularly in the area of food and health. Yet the recent economic crisis raises doubts as to its ability to sustain its contributions.

[At a Glance](#) [EN](#)

[Russia's humanitarian aid policy](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 17-05-2016

Author RUSSELL Martin

Policy area Development and Humanitarian Aid

Keyword cooperation policy | distribution of aid | economic geography | Europe | food aid | foreign policy | GEOGRAPHY | humanitarian aid | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | political geography | Russia

Summary Since the mid-2000s, Russia has emerged – or rather, re-emerged – as a donor of humanitarian aid. However, its contributions remain modest compared to those of more established donors, and some Russian aid appears to serve geopolitical rather than humanitarian objectives.

[At a Glance](#) [EN](#)

[Humanitarian policy of the Gulf States](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 17-05-2016

Author LATEK Marta

Policy area Development and Humanitarian Aid

Keyword Asia and Oceania | civil war | cooperation policy | distribution of aid | economic geography | extra-European organisations | financing of aid | foreign policy | GEOGRAPHY | Gulf Cooperation Council | Gulf States | humanitarian aid | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | political geography | political refugee | POLITICS | politics and public safety | Syria | terrorism

Summary At a times of rising global terrorist threats and humanitarian crises affecting the region, the prosperous oil-producing monarchies of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) – Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) – have come under sustained criticism for their policy towards asylum-seekers, their support to Syrian rebels, including jihadists, and their alleged laxity towards private financing of terrorism. Although the huge increase in their humanitarian spending has been interpreted by a number of commentators as a means to counter those criticisms, it seems also to be part of a longer-term foreign policy strategy.

[At a Glance](#) [EN](#)

[China's humanitarian aid policy and practice](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 17-05-2016

Author GRIEGER Gisela

Policy area Development and Humanitarian Aid

Keyword Asia and Oceania | China | civil defence | cooperation policy | deterioration of the environment | distribution of aid | economic geography | ENVIRONMENT | foreign policy | GEOGRAPHY | humanitarian aid | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | natural disaster | POLITICS | politics and public safety

Summary Since the mid-2000s, the People's Republic of China (PRC) has made major headway in integrating into the global humanitarian-assistance architecture and has gradually raised its profile as an emerging non-traditional humanitarian aid provider. China's humanitarian aid policy has shifted away from an approach predominantly determined by ideology and geopolitical considerations, towards one which is set to be more pragmatic and commensurate with the country's growing global economic and political clout. China's humanitarian aid was originally provided only through government agencies, but increasingly has also been delivered through United Nations agencies and non-governmental organisations (NGOs), thus improving the transparency of aid flows.

[At a Glance](#) [EN](#)

Thailand in 2016: Restoring Democracy or Reversing it?

Publication type Study

Date 18-04-2016

Author BANDONE Anete | BARONE Barbara | MARTI DOMINGUEZ Carmen-Paz | VANDEWALLE Laurence

Policy area Democracy | Environment | Fisheries | Foreign Affairs | Human Rights | International Trade

Keyword agreement (EU) | AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES | ASEAN | Asia and Oceania | coup d'état | criminal law | democracy | economic conditions | economic geography | economic situation | ECONOMICS | EMPLOYMENT AND WORKING CONDITIONS | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | extra-European organisations | fisheries | fishing regulations | foreign policy | GEOGRAPHY | human rights | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | labour market | LAW | migrant worker | military regime | political framework | political situation | POLITICS | politics and public safety | rights and freedoms | Thailand | trade | TRADE | trade policy | trade policy | trading operation | trafficking in human beings

Summary After staging a military coup against the Yingluck Shinawatra government, a junta has been ruling Thailand since 22 May 2014. It has drastically restricted political activities and freedom of speech. There have been numerous human rights abuses, including torture. Under a 'roadmap to democracy', a referendum on a new constitution is planned for August 2017 and could be followed by elections at a later stage. However, the military might retain power until the king's successor accedes to the throne, in order to guarantee stability. Despite close trade ties, the EU has suspended the signing of a partnership and cooperation agreement and negotiations on a free trade agreement until democracy is restored. In April 2015, Thailand received a 'yellow card' warning by the European Commission for problems relating to illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing.

Study [DE](#), [EN](#), [FR](#), [IT](#)

South Korea ahead of legislative elections

Publication type At a Glance

Date 07-04-2016

Author D'AMBROGIO Enrico

Policy area Foreign Affairs

Keyword Asia and Oceania | defence | economic conditions | economic geography | economic sanctions | economic situation | ECONOMICS | electoral procedure and voting | electrical and nuclear industries | ENERGY | EU relations | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | foreign policy | GEOGRAPHY | international affairs | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | international security | North Korea | nuclear test | nuclear weapon | parliament | parliamentary election | political situation | POLITICS | politics and public safety | South Korea | unicameral system

Summary On 13 April 2016 the 300-member National Assembly will be renewed. Following January's nuclear test by North Korea, South Korea is experiencing high tension with its neighbour, which adds to political instability, a slowing economy, rising social inequality and concerns about freedoms.

At a Glance [EN](#)

China and Europe [What Think Tanks are thinking]

Publication type At a Glance

Date 11-03-2016

Author CESLUK-GRAJEWSKI Marcin

Policy area Foreign Affairs | Global Governance

Keyword Asia and Oceania | bibliography | China | documentation | economic geography | economic structure | ECONOMICS | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EU relations | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | foreign policy | GEOGRAPHY | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | world economy

Summary China has recently taken centre-stage in many global debates, as the volatility of its stock market and currency have posed a question mark over the health of its economy, which has implications for international and European economic growth. The growing importance of China was highlighted last year, for example, by its increasingly active foreign policy and the inclusion of the Yuan in the International Monetary Fund's currency basket. The European Union faces strategic choices in its often complex relationship with China - such as whether to grant the country market economy status or to proceed to a bilateral trade agreement, and how far to emphasise human rights when many EU Member States are competing for Chinese inward investment. This note offers links to recent commentaries, studies and reports from major international think tanks on relations between China and the EU, as well as on economic and political developments in that country with global implications. More studies on the topic can be found in a previous edition of 'What Think Tanks are thinking'.

At a Glance [EN](#)

Sanctions over Ukraine: Impact on Russia

Publication type Briefing

Date 11-03-2016

Author RUSSELL Martin

Policy area Foreign Affairs

Keyword arms trade | bank | common foreign and security policy | defence | economic analysis | economic conditions | economic consequence | economic geography | economic sanctions | economic situation | ECONOMICS | ENERGY | energy industry | energy policy | Europe | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | financial institutions and credit | foreign policy | GEOGRAPHY | import substitution | inflation | international affairs | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | military intervention | political geography | POLITICS | politics and public safety | public opinion | Russia | TRADE | trade policy | Ukraine

Summary In early 2014, Russia violated international law by annexing Crimea and allegedly fomenting separatist uprisings in the eastern Ukrainian region of Donbass. The European Union, the United States and several other Western countries responded with diplomatic measures in March 2014, followed by asset freezes and visa bans targeted at individuals and entities. In July 2014, sanctions targeting the Russian energy, defence and financial sectors were adopted. These sanctions have not swayed Russian public opinion, which continues to staunchly back the Kremlin's actions in Ukraine. The diplomatic impact has also been limited, particularly now that Russia's military intervention in Syria has helped it to break out of diplomatic isolation. On the other hand, sectoral sanctions have proved painful, aggravating the economic downturn triggered by falling oil prices. Sanctions have affected the Russian economy in various ways. The main short-term impact comes from restrictions on Western lending and investment in Russia. Oil and gas production remains unaffected for the time being, but in the long term energy exports are likely to suffer. Meanwhile, Russian counter-sanctions are benefiting the agricultural sector, but consumers are losing out in terms of choice and price. So far, the overall impact of sanctions has been to isolate Russia from the global economy and hold back economic modernisation.

Briefing [EN](#)

United States - China Relations: a Complex Balance between Cooperation and Confrontation

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 04-03-2016

Author ARNAUD ANTOINE | BENDINI Roberto | GRIFFITHS EMILIE

Policy area Foreign Affairs | International Trade | Security and Defence

Keyword America | Asia and Oceania | bilateral relations | China | climate change policy | cooperation policy | defence | defence policy | economic conditions | economic cooperation | economic geography | economic situation | ECONOMICS | ENVIRONMENT | environmental policy | foreign policy | GEOGRAPHY | geopolitics | humanities | international affairs | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | multilateral relations | political geography | SCIENCE | territorial dispute | TRADE | trade policy | trade policy | United States

Summary China's rise is a real game-changer both economically and geopolitically, and represents both an opportunity and a challenge for the major global power, namely the United States. China's new economic and political weight fosters further cooperation with the US on a number of global issues, as well as increased collaboration within multilateral organisations. Given their sheer influence, both countries have global interests that make it difficult to find a solution for one without the consent of the other. China's rise and expanding global interests have resulted in a drastic change in the global geopolitical order. Frustrations over the US's predominance, especially in Asia, have raised tensions between the two powers. Under the leadership of President Xi Jinping, China has adopted a more assertive approach towards multilateral organisations which it sees as controlled by and for Western powers, but also towards its direct neighbours. This approach represents a direct challenge to the world order established and sustained by the US and is therefore a potential reason for conflict.

In-Depth Analysis [EN](#)

Montenegro: Progress amidst political turmoil

Publication type At a Glance

Date 02-03-2016

Author LILYANOVA Velina

Policy area Foreign Affairs

Keyword accession negotiations | corruption | criminal law | economic geography | electoral procedure and voting | electoral reform | Europe | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | foreign policy | freedom of the press | GEOGRAPHY | institutional reform | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | judicial reform | LAW | Montenegro | NATO | organisation of the legal system | political geography | political morality | political situation | POLITICS | politics and public safety | rights and freedoms | world organisations

Summary Montenegro is seen as a 'scoreboard leader' in the enlargement process as it has already opened most of the negotiation chapters with the EU. However, implementation is still lacking in key areas and remains to be addressed. In 2016, amidst political turmoil, the country expects to join NATO at its July Warsaw Summit, and is due to hold parliamentary elections, on a date yet to be fixed.

At a Glance [EN](#)

[Belarus: A repressed economy](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 02-03-2016

Author BENTZEN Naja | DIETRICH Christian

Policy area Foreign Affairs

Keyword Belarus | cooperation policy | economic analysis | economic conditions | economic geography | economic independence | economic recession | economic reform | economic situation | economic statistics | economic structure | ECONOMICS | ENERGY | energy policy | Europe | FINANCE | financial aid | foreign policy | GEOGRAPHY | gross domestic product | international affairs | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | national accounts | political geography | price of energy | public debt | public finance and budget policy | Russia

Summary Following 19 years of positive economic growth, Belarus's economy contracted by 3.6% in 2015, partly due to the deep recession in Russia, the country's closest trading partner. With shrinking foreign reserves and an increasing need for loans and investment, Belarus is looking for alternative support in an attempt to temporarily stabilise its economy. However, it remains uncertain if the recession will prompt fundamental changes to President Lukashenko's repressive economic policies. Please click here for the full publication in PDF format

[At a Glance](#) [EN](#)

[Iran after the nuclear deal: Implications for the region and the EU](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 15-02-2016

Author PAWLAK Patryk

Policy area Foreign Affairs

Keyword Asia and Oceania | common foreign and security policy | cooperation policy | economic analysis | economic consequence | economic geography | ECONOMICS | electrical and nuclear industries | ENERGY | energy cooperation | EU relations | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | foreign policy | GEOGRAPHY | geopolitics | humanities | international affairs | international agreement | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | Iran | Middle East | military intervention | nuclear non-proliferation | nuclear policy | nuclear safety | political geography | regional security | SCIENCE | South Asia

Summary The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action signed in July 2015 between Iran and France, China, Germany, Russia, the United Kingdom, the United States and the European Union provides an opportunity for the normalisation of Iran's relationship with the rest of the international community. The main purpose of the agreement is to ensure the entirely peaceful nature of Iran's nuclear programme. In exchange, upon the implementation of the commitments included in the deal and verification by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the sanctions against Iran will gradually be lifted. It is not surprising therefore that after years of tense relations; both the international community and sections of Iranian society have high hopes for the results of this agreement. Even though other international political issues were purposefully excluded from the negotiations, there is an expectation that Iran will become a more responsible member of the international community and will facilitate the finding of solutions to conflicts in Syria, Iraq and Yemen. In that sense, Iran's relations with its neighbours in the Persian Gulf, and other regional powers – Egypt and Turkey in particular – will be an important part of that equation. At the same time, Iranian society is hoping that implementation of the agreement and the lifting of sanctions will significantly contribute to improving their living standards, in particular by reducing the unemployment rate. See also our briefing outlining the nuclear agreement with Iran, PE 572.820.

[Briefing](#) [EN](#)

[Ukraine: What to watch for in 2016](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 12-02-2016

Author BENTZEN Naja

Policy area Foreign Affairs

Keyword association agreement (EU) | communications | cooperation policy | disinformation | economic conditions | economic geography | economic situation | ECONOMICS | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | electoral procedure and voting | ENERGY | energy policy | energy supply | Europe | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | financial aid | foreign policy | gas pipeline | GEOGRAPHY | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | military occupation | organisation of transport | political geography | political situation | POLITICS | politics and public safety | referendum | Russia | settlement of disputes | TRANSPORT | Ukraine

Summary With the entry into force of the EU-Ukraine Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA) as part of the Association Agreement (AA) on 1 January 2016, Ukraine has taken a significant step forward on its long road to European integration. However, 2016 will entail a new series of tests for the country.

While Kyiv is under continued pressure to fulfil the February 2015 Minsk II ceasefire agreement, the interruption of electricity supply to Crimea — occupied by Russia since March 2014 — has added fuel to bilateral tensions over the peninsula, which could intensify in 2016. Ukraine's default on its US\$3 billion debt to Russia, and Moscow's response will further strain bilateral ties.

The growing fragility of the pro-European government coalition could increase the likelihood of early parliamentary elections and impede the on-going reform process. At the same time, the national security situation — precarious overall as it is — could be further undermined by cyber-attacks.

In addition, a number of external developments, for example, the split within the EU vis-à-vis the Russia-backed 'Nord Stream 2' gas pipeline and the forthcoming Dutch referendum on the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement, planned for April 2016, will require attention.

[Briefing](#) [EN](#)

[Kazakhstan's long-held stability threatened](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 08-02-2016

Author KOCAK Konur Alp

Policy area Foreign Affairs

Keyword Afghanistan | armed forces | Asia and Oceania | cooperation policy | defence | defence expenditure | economic geography | Europe | foreign policy | GEOGRAPHY | geopolitics | humanities | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | Kazakhstan | military cooperation | military occupation | political geography | political situation | POLITICS | politics and public safety | regional security | Russia | SCIENCE | terrorism

Summary Russia's annexation of Crimea and the conflict in eastern Ukraine are worrying Kazakhstan, given its large Russian minority in the regions bordering Russia. Kazakhstan's proximity to Afghanistan exposes the country to threats such as religious extremism, drug trafficking and terrorism, particularly after NATO's withdrawal from Afghanistan. Russia is increasing its influence in regional security matters and pushing Kazakhstan for greater cooperation in the fight against shared threats.

[At a Glance](#) [EN](#)

[Peace agreement in South Sudan: Ambitious but hard to deliver](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 02-02-2016

Author PICHON Eric

Policy area Foreign Affairs

Keyword Africa | arms trade | Central African Republic | civil war | common foreign and security policy | defence | Democratic Republic of the Congo | economic geography | establishment of peace | Ethiopia | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | extra-European organisations | foreign policy | GEOGRAPHY | government violence | human rights | independence of the judiciary | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | Kenya | LAW | organisation of the legal system | political geography | political prisoner | political violence | POLITICS | politics and public safety | rights and freedoms | settlement of disputes | South Sudan | Sudan | Uganda

Summary In August 2015, under considerable international pressure, a peace agreement was signed in South Sudan: it aimed to end the violent civil war that had broken out two years earlier. The conflict was caused by a number of entangled factors that can be boiled down to a struggle for power and oil in a devastated country. Soon after gaining independence in 2011, the rivalry between the two main leaders, Salva Kiir and Riek Machar, that had been subdued, erupted again.

In July 2013, President Kiir dismissed Vice-President Machar. The following December, ethnic conflict erupted within the army, tragically spreading to the civilian population and leading to a humanitarian catastrophe. The 2015 peace agreement is an important benchmark towards peace and reconciliation, as it addresses the main issues: establishment of an inclusive government; demilitarisation and reinsertion in civilian life of a large number of well-equipped militias; proper mechanisms for transitional justice and reparation; immediate measures to facilitate humanitarian access; and a consistent programme to redress the economy. Nevertheless, progress towards implementation of the peace deal is slow: key structures such as the transitional government and the 'hybrid' court have not yet been put in place. Building confidence between the current head of state and his main opponent is a challenging task for international mediators.

[Briefing](#) [EN](#)

[Ukraine and the Minsk II agreement: On a frozen path to peace?](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 27-01-2016

Author BENTZEN Naja

Policy area Foreign Affairs

Keyword autonomous movement | border war | civil war | common foreign and security policy | constitutional revision | cooperation policy | decentralisation | economic geography | Europe | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | executive power and public service | foreign policy | GEOGRAPHY | humanitarian aid | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | LAW | occupied territory | political geography | POLITICS | politics and public safety | prisoner of war | Russia | settlement of disputes | sources and branches of the law | Ukraine

Summary While Kyiv took an important step towards Europe with the entry into force of the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area on 1 January 2016, Ukraine's path to peace with neighbouring Russia remains complicated. The implementation of the fragile Minsk II ceasefire agreement — negotiated by the leaders of France, Germany, Ukraine and Russia in February 2015 — has been extended into 2016.

Several unresolved issues will continue to pose challenges to the fulfilment of Minsk II in 2016. The death toll has now surpassed 9 000, and Russia continues to supply the rebels with ammunition, weaponry and fighters. In addition, Ukrainian pilot Nadiya Savchenko is still imprisoned in Russia over murder charges. At the same time, the practical consequences of the conflict are tangible in the rebel-held areas, where a humanitarian crisis is unfolding.

While the self-proclaimed republics in Donetsk and Luhansk had agreed to postpone local elections until February 2016 — a move that was welcomed by Kyiv, Moscow and Brussels — the next developments hinge on a political settlement. However, some analysts hope that recent Russian high-level appointments could give new impetus to negotiations.

This briefing brings up to date that of 16 July 2015, 'Ukraine: Follow-up of Minsk II – A fragile ceasefire'.

[Briefing](#) [EN](#)

2015: Serbia opens its first negotiation chapters

Publication type At a Glance

Date 26-01-2016

Author LILYANOVA Velina

Policy area Foreign Affairs

Keyword accession negotiations | communications | constitutional revision | economic geography | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | Europe | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | foreign policy | freedom of communication | GEOGRAPHY | independence of the judiciary | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | judicial reform | Kosovo | LAW | organisation of the legal system | pluralism in the media | political geography | rights and freedoms | Serbia | settlement of disputes | sources and branches of the law

Summary At the end of 2015 Serbia made a step forward towards EU accession. Two years after the start of the accession talks with the EU, after having successfully completed the screening of the EU acquis and reached key new agreements with Kosovo, it opened its first negotiation chapters with the EU.

At a Glance [DE](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FR](#), [IT](#), [PL](#)

Kosovo: 'First formal step' towards EU accession

Publication type At a Glance

Date 26-01-2016

Author LILYANOVA Velina

Policy area Foreign Affairs

Keyword accession to the European Union | administrative reform | constitutional revision | corruption | criminal law | economic geography | EU visa policy | Europe | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | executive power and public service | foreign policy | GEOGRAPHY | independence of the judiciary | international law | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | Kosovo | LAW | organisation of the legal system | political framework | political geography | political situation | POLITICS | politics and public safety | recognition of a state | rule of law | Serbia | settlement of disputes | sources and branches of the law | stabilisation and association agreement

Summary The Commission's latest progress report notes that, in 2015, Kosovo was still at an 'early stage' of preparedness for EU membership. However, in October 2015 it signed a Stabilisation and Association Agreement (SAA) with the EU, which reaffirmed its EU perspective.

At a Glance [DE](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FR](#), [IT](#), [PL](#)

Japan: Defence and security policy reform

Publication type Briefing

Date 22-01-2016

Author D'AMBROGIO Enrico

Policy area Foreign Affairs

Keyword America | arms policy | Asia and Oceania | constitution | cooperation policy | defence | defence policy | economic geography | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | foreign policy | GEOGRAPHY | geopolitics | humanities | information and information processing | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | interpretation of the law | Japan | LAW | military cooperation | military equipment | military intervention | peacekeeping | political geography | regional security | SCIENCE | sources and branches of the law | State secret | United States

Summary After a lengthy, fraught parliamentary process, on 20 September 2015 the National Diet of Japan finally approved a long-awaited reform of Japan's defence and security laws. Prime Minister Shinzō Abe's determination won out against opposition from within Parliament and the public. Article 9 of the Japanese Constitution has been reinterpreted: Japan's Self-Defence Forces can now come to the aid of any ally which is under attack, in particular the US, which has guaranteed Japan's security since the end of the Second World War. This change was one of a series of reforms and initiatives, which included setting up a National Security Council, defining a national security strategy, adopting a law on classified information and revising the Principles on Arms Exports. The guidelines for cooperation with the US have also been revised. At the same time, Tokyo has begun to develop its military cooperation with other countries in the region. The purpose of these reforms was to make Japan an 'active contributor to peace' in a regional context overshadowed by Chinese ambitions and the growing nuclear threat from North Korea.

Briefing [EN](#), [FR](#)

USA: State of the Union 2016

Publication type At a Glance

Date 21-01-2016

Author LAZAROU Eleni

Policy area Foreign Affairs

Keyword America | climate change | deterioration of the environment | documentation | economic conditions | economic geography | economic situation | ECONOMICS | education | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | education policy | ENERGY | energy policy | energy policy | ENVIRONMENT | foreign policy | free-trade agreement | GEOGRAPHY | head of State | health | health care system | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | international trade | medical research | political framework | political geography | political situation | POLITICS | politics and public safety | public statement | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | TRADE | United States

Summary On 12 January 2016, President Obama delivered his seventh State of the Union Address before a Congress dominated by Republicans since the 2014 mid-term elections. According to analysts, the President aimed to shape his legacy and US politics rather than to push legislation, but his optimism does not fully reflect the sentiment of the American public.

At a Glance [EN](#)

[Taiwan's political landscape ahead of elections](#)

Publication type [At a Glance](#)

Date 14-01-2016

Author GRIEGER Gisela

Policy area Foreign Affairs

Keyword [Asia and Oceania](#) | [China](#) | [economic geography](#) | [electoral procedure and voting](#) | [EU relations](#) | [European construction](#) | [EUROPEAN UNION](#) | [foreign policy](#) | [GEOGRAPHY](#) | [INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS](#) | [international security](#) | [parliamentary election](#) | [political situation](#) | [POLITICS](#) | [politics and public safety](#) | [presidential election](#) | [Taiwan](#)

Summary Public opinion polls suggest that the 16 January presidential and legislative elections in Taiwan are likely to bring about a change in power. The ruling nationalist Kuomintang (KMT), which advocates stronger ties with mainland China is expected to lose the presidency, and possibly even its majority in the Legislative Yuan, Taiwan's unicameral chamber, to the independence-leaning opposition Democratic Progressive Party (DPP). The DPP's arrival in power could challenge peaceful and stable cross-strait relations and have wider security implications, since more than 1 100 short-range ballistic missiles on mainland China point to Taiwan whose security is guaranteed by the US.

[At a Glance](#) [EN](#)

[Iran-Saudi Arabia relations: Figuring out the next move](#)

Publication type [Briefing](#)

Date 11-01-2016

Author PAWLAK Patryk

Policy area Foreign Affairs

Keyword [Asia and Oceania](#) | [conflict prevention](#) | [criminal law](#) | [culture and religion](#) | [death penalty](#) | [economic geography](#) | [foreign policy](#) | [freedom of religious beliefs](#) | [GEOGRAPHY](#) | [geopolitics](#) | [humanities](#) | [INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS](#) | [international security](#) | [Iran](#) | [Islam](#) | [LAW](#) | [political geography](#) | [protection of minorities](#) | [regional security](#) | [religious discrimination](#) | [religious group](#) | [rights and freedoms](#) | [Saudi Arabia](#) | [SCIENCE](#) | [social framework](#) | [SOCIAL QUESTIONS](#)

Summary Relations between Iran and Saudi Arabia – two powerhouses and major rivals of the Muslim world – have always been complicated. The 1979 Revolution in Iran, and the Iran-Iraq war (1980-1988), have contributed to entrenching their historical antagonisms and left an imprint in the foreign policies of both Iran and Saudi Arabia. Since 2011, Tehran and Riyadh have repeatedly exchanged blows, including through their proxies in Syria, Iraq and Yemen. Iran has also often been accused of interfering in the internal affairs of Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and other Gulf countries with significant Shiite minorities. Iran, on the other hand, has accused Saudi Arabia of promoting anti Shiite policies and practices. Both sides have also resorted to downgrading or suspending diplomatic ties in the past – as was the case of Iran and Saudi Arabia in 1988, and Iran and Bahrain in 2011 and 2015. In that sense, the recent decision by Saudi Arabia and several other Gulf countries to cut or downgrade diplomatic ties with Iran does not represent a radical change in their bilateral relations but is nonetheless worrying given growing sectarian problems in the region. The escalation of the conflict between Iran and Saudi Arabia – only a few weeks after the two countries sat for the first time at the same table to discuss the conflict in Syria – comes at a particularly sensitive moment. Implementation of the carefully brokered diplomatic undertakings of the past few months – in particular the nuclear deal with Iran and the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 2254 (2015) on Syria – depend on good relations between Saudi Arabia and Iran. Therefore, diplomatic efforts to find a means to help de-escalate the conflict and present all sides with a face-saving option will remain the main challenge for the coming months.

[Briefing](#) [EN](#)

[Brazil's ambitions in climate change policy](#)

Publication type [At a Glance](#)

Date 03-12-2015

Author LAZAROU Eleni

Policy area [Environment](#) | [Foreign Affairs](#)

Keyword [America](#) | [Brazil](#) | [climate change](#) | [deforestation](#) | [deterioration of the environment](#) | [economic geography](#) | [ENERGY](#) | [energy policy](#) | [energy supply](#) | [ENVIRONMENT](#) | [environmental policy](#) | [environmental policy](#) | [EU institutions and European civil service](#) | [EUROPEAN UNION](#) | [foreign policy](#) | [GEOGRAPHY](#) | [greenhouse gas](#) | [institutional structure](#) | [international affairs](#) | [international meeting](#) | [INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS](#) | [international security](#) | [political geography](#) | [reduction of gas emissions](#) | [UN Framework Convention on Climate Change](#)

Summary Brazil plays an active role in international climate change negotiations. Its success record on deforestation has made it a leader in the reduction of carbon emissions. Ahead of the 21st Conference of the Parties (COP21) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), Brazil made commitments to reduce emissions considerably by 2025.

[At a Glance](#) [EN](#)

[Argentina: A Change of Course](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 25-11-2015

Author TVEVAD Jesper

Policy area Democracy

Keyword allocation of seats | America | Argentina | bicameral system | candidate | distribution of votes | economic conditions | economic development | economic geography | ECONOMICS | election result | electoral procedure and voting | EU relations | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | extra-European organisations | foreign policy | GEOGRAPHY | head of State | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | international trade | Mercosur | national election | parliament | political coalition | political framework | political geography | political parties | political party | POLITICS | politics and public safety | presidential election | TRADE | trade relations

Summary On 22 November 2015, Mauricio Macri, candidate of a coalition named 'Let's change' (Cambiamos), was elected president of Argentina. He will assume office on 10 December. Macri received 51.4 % of the vote in the second round of the presidential elections. His election ends 12 years of Peronist governments. Macri's victory owes much to the high number of votes he received in urban centres, particularly in the capital Buenos Aires and the second largest city, Córdoba. Despite Macri's final victory in the presidential elections, the 25 October parliamentary and provincial polls showed that the Peronist movement remains the principal political force. After the 25 October Congress elections, the Front for Victory (Frente para la Victoria, FpV), currently in government, remains the largest bloc in the new Congress, although it lost its absolute majority in the Chamber of Deputies. Macri faces the challenge of mobilising support in Congress for the new government's legislative proposals. The most likely scenario is that he will try to establish a coalition with the Peronist factions opposed to President Cristina Fernández and the FpV. The new government is likely to take measures to liberalise and open up the economy. The new government will seek strengthened links with the USA and the EU, and may well push for trade liberalisation in Mercosur. Macri has announced that he will ask for Mercosur's 'democratic clause' to be invoked against Venezuela. Macri has stressed the need to advance towards a Mercosur-EU free trade agreement. Overall, the change of government appears an opportunity for renewed relations between the EU and Argentina.

Briefing [EN](#), [ES](#)

[Ukraine's will to liberalise: Tested on many fronts](#)

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 04-11-2015

Author DE MICCO Pasquale

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues | Foreign Affairs | International Trade

Keyword association agreement (EU) | autonomous movement | cooperation policy | economic conditions | economic geography | economic reform | economic sanctions | economic situation | economic structure | ECONOMICS | EU finance | EU financing | Europe | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | financial aid | foreign policy | GEOGRAPHY | international affairs | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | international trade | political geography | political situation | POLITICS | politics and public safety | Russia | settlement of disputes | TRADE | trade relations | Ukraine

Summary Faced with a deteriorating economy, unstable internal security and the financial repercussions of military efforts in the east, Ukraine is striving to create a business-friendly climate. To this end, the country is preparing for the enforcement by 1 January 2016 of the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA) created under the Association Agreement with the EU. The war and a decline in industrial output have led Ukraine's foreign trade to contract. Imports have been hit by the country's shrinking GDP, and exports are also declining. In the case of exports to Russia, several embargos and the unpredictability of the Russian market have compounded the toll. On the other hand, exports to the EU have demonstrated a surprising resilience, thanks largely to the positive performance of agriculture. While the EU has granted the country autonomous trade measures, these may not be responsible for the recent strength of Ukraine's agricultural exports; instead, traders' new market orientation may be the cause. Russia's opposition to the implementation of the DCFTA has been muted since trilateral trade negotiations with the EU and Ukraine were launched. A mutually acceptable solution may be found – or not – by the end of 2015. Ultimately, any real improvement in Ukraine's economy will depend on the termination of military activities in the east, on not totally losing trade with traditional Eurasian partners, on the effective entry into force of the DCFTA, on debt restructuring and on a commitment to ambitious reforms. Ukraine's current trade barriers must be removed. For now, at least, Ukraine seems dedicated to doing just that.

In-Depth Analysis [EN](#)

[Kyrgyzstan: Closer to democracy - and Russia](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 28-10-2015

Author KOCAK Konur Alp

Policy area Foreign Affairs

Keyword allocation of seats | Asia and Oceania | democratisation | discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation | economic geography | electoral law | electoral procedure and voting | EU relations | Europe | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | executive power and public service | foreign policy | GEOGRAPHY | human rights | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | Kyrgyzstan | LAW | parliamentary election | political coalition | political geography | political parties | political party | political situation | POLITICS | politics and public safety | rights and freedoms | Russia

Summary Praised by both Russian and European observers, the elections of 4 October 2015 are considered a milestone in Kyrgyzstan's democratic transition of the country, consolidating the new political system launched by the new constitution adopted after the 2010 revolution. With seats split between six pro-Moscow parties, the results entail the formation of a coalition government in the fractured parliament, and herald further rapprochement to Russia.

At a Glance [EN](#)

Vietnam: Despite Human Rights Concerns, a Promising Partner for the EU in Asia

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 14-10-2015

Author MENDONCA Susana | VANDEWALLE Laurence

Policy area Democracy | Foreign Affairs | Human Rights | International Trade

Keyword Asia and Oceania | cooperation agreement (EU) | cooperation policy | corruption | criminal law | development aid | economic conditions | economic geography | economic situation | ECONOMICS | EU institutions and European civil service | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | foreign policy | GEOGRAPHY | human rights | institutional structure | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | LAW | national parliament | one-party system | parliament | political framework | political situation | POLITICS | politics and public safety | rights and freedoms | TRADE | trade agreement (EU) | trade policy | trade policy | Vietnam

Summary The year 2015 – the 25th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the EU and Vietnam – is likely to be a landmark one. Three years after the EU and Vietnam signed a framework agreement for a Comprehensive Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA), the European Parliament has been requested to decide whether to give its consent to the agreement. Separately, the European Commission announced on 4 August 2015 that an agreement had been reached on a bilateral free trade agreement (FTA), three years after negotiations were launched. For the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, deepening relations with the EU is a priority, a way of offsetting China's strong influence while maintaining independence from the United States. Within the country, the Communist Party maintains a firm grip on the state apparatus. Media and civil society are severely restricted, and the human rights record remains poor.

In-Depth Analysis [DE](#), [EN](#), [FR](#)

Putin's Russia [What Think Tanks are thinking]

Publication type Briefing

Date 09-10-2015

Author CESLUK-GRAJEWSKI Marcin

Policy area Foreign Affairs

Keyword bibliography | common foreign and security policy | documentation | economic conditions | economic geography | economic sanctions | economic situation | ECONOMICS | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | Europe | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | foreign policy | GEOGRAPHY | international affairs | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | international security | military occupation | political geography | Russia

Summary Russia's assertive foreign policy, annexation of Crimea, conflict with Ukraine and, recently, military operation in Syria are further challenging the assumptions of the post-Cold War world order. Meanwhile, on the domestic front, President Vladimir Putin's government is seen to be increasingly repressive. The sanctions against Moscow imposed by the United States and the European Union have hit the Russian economy hard, but do not appear to have weakened President Putin's resolve to pursue policies which are highly criticised in the West. The EU, US and other countries are looking for the best options of dealing with Russia while trying to determine what drives President Putin's actions. This note offers links to commentaries, studies and reports by major international think tanks, which discuss Russia's policies and how to respond to them.

Briefing [EN](#)

South Korea as a global actor: The emergence of a middle-ranking power?

Publication type At a Glance

Date 18-09-2015

Author D'AMBROGIO Enrico

Policy area Foreign Affairs

Keyword armed forces | Asia and Oceania | climate change policy | cooperation policy | defence | development aid | economic conditions | economic geography | economic policy | economic situation | ECONOMICS | ENERGY | energy policy | energy policy | ENVIRONMENT | environmental policy | foreign policy | GEOGRAPHY | international affairs | international cooperation | International Monetary Fund | international organisation | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | multinational force | OECD | South Korea | sustainable development | United Nations | UNO | World Bank | world organisations | World Trade Organisation

Summary Although relatively recent, South Korea's engagement in the activities of the main international political and economic governance institutions has helped to forge and enhance the country's profile as a more influential player in global affairs.

At a Glance [EN](#)

[Japan: Foreign and Security Policy at a Crossroads](#)

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 26-08-2015

Author BENDINI Roberto

Policy area Foreign Affairs | Global Governance | Security and Defence

Keyword America | Asia and Oceania | China | cooperation policy | defence | defence policy | economic geography | executive power and public service | foreign policy | GEOGRAPHY | government policy | head of government | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | Japan | military cooperation | North Korea | political geography | political reform | POLITICS | politics and public safety | regional security | South Korea | territorial dispute | United States

Summary On 16 July 2015, the Lower House of Japan's Diet (the House of Representatives) approved a controversial package significantly reducing barriers to the deployment of Japanese defence forces overseas. This is the most significant change to have been made to Japan's security and defence policy since World War II. The reforms promoted by Prime Minister Abe represent a fundamental shift in Japan's foreign and security policy since WWII. Abe's reforms are the logical consequence of a process of revision started more than twenty years ago with the end of the Cold War and later fuelled by the need to contest and contain the rising of China as a regional and global power. These reforms, including the reinterpretation of Article 9 of the Japanese Constitution, have been undertaken in a context of constantly shifting regional balance in the Asia-Pacific region, where Japan has been increasingly threatened by both China and North Korea. This has prompted a significant upgrade in relations with the US and may pave the way for a new phase of Japanese foreign policy, but also has a negative impact on Japan's already lukewarm relations with the People's Republic of China (PRC) and the Koreans.

In-Depth Analysis [EN](#)

[India's multilateral relations](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 17-07-2015

Author D'AMBROGIO Enrico

Policy area Foreign Affairs

Keyword Asia and Oceania | Asia-Pacific economic cooperation | Commonwealth | cooperation policy | economic cooperation | economic geography | economic integration | economic policy | ECONOMICS | extra-European organisations | foreign policy | GEOGRAPHY | India | international affairs | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | multilateral relations | South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation | South-South cooperation | TRADE | trade policy | trade policy | United Nations | UNO | world organisations | World Trade Organisation

Summary India, once a leader of the Non-aligned Movement, is now moving away from its non-alignment position. New Delhi now maintains relationships in different configurations with a variety of countries for different purposes (such as within the BRICS). India also increasingly engages in regional groupings. The South Asia Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) is supposed to be the main tool for integration in the region, but bilateral tensions with Pakistan have jeopardised its development. New Delhi is therefore shifting towards a sub-regional grouping within SAARC and connectivity projects, such as the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) and the Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar Economic Corridor (BCIM-EC). These projects coincide with the new 'Act East' policy, which builds on the previous 'Look East' policy, and whose key focus is represented by relations with the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN). By 2016 India will also join the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, which is focused on non-traditional security cooperation between China, Russia and other Central Asian countries. India has long lobbied for permanent seat in the United Nations Security Council, and maintains a pragmatic approach when voting in the UN General Assembly. India is also a major contributor to UN peacekeeping missions. In November 2014, India achieved a remarkable diplomatic success, when it negotiated with the US the right to stockpile and subsidise staple foods for the poor – an agreement that unblocked the Trade Facilitation Agreement within the World Trade Organization.

Briefing [EN](#)

[India's bilateral relations: First year of the Narendra Modi era](#)

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 17-07-2015

Author D'AMBROGIO Enrico

Policy area Foreign Affairs

Keyword ASEAN | Asia and Oceania | bilateral relations | China | cooperation policy | economic cooperation | economic geography | EU relations | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | extra-European organisations | foreign policy | GEOGRAPHY | India | international affairs | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | international trade | Kashmir question | most favoured nation | Pakistan | South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation | South-South cooperation | territorial dispute | TRADE | trade policy | trade policy

Summary 'Build a strong, self-reliant and self-confident India': that was the 2014 electoral promise of the Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He has not wasted time, and has immediately started to work on relations with New Delhi's immediate neighbours and with the south-eastern partners through the new 'Act East' policy. Major powers have showed a renewed interest in India. But while relations with Washington and other Western countries are promising, this has not come at the detriment of New Delhi's traditional ties with Moscow. A mix of mutual interest and competitiveness characterises relations with China. All this demonstrates how India's foreign policy is guided by the pragmatism necessary to gain global status. Now that Prime Minister Modi has gained trust at international level, his next challenge is to overcome internal resistance to the required major economic reforms to make India a global manufacturing hub.

In-Depth Analysis [DE](#), [EN](#), [FR](#)

[EU-Central Asia High Level Security Dialogue](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 16-07-2015

Author KOCAK Konur Alp

Policy area Foreign Affairs | Security and Defence

Keyword Asia and Oceania | Central Asia | China | common foreign and security policy | cooperation policy | criminal law | culture and religion | drug traffic | economic geography | energy cooperation | ethnic conflict | Europe | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | foreign policy | GEOGRAPHY | international cooperation | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | LAW | military cooperation | political geography | POLITICS | politics and public safety | regional security | religious fundamentalism | Russia | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | terrorism | Ukraine

Summary The EU-Central Asia High Level Security Dialogue (HLSD), established in June 2013 following the third review of the EU's Central Asian Strategy, is a mechanism addressing security issues of shared concern, such as terrorism; drug trafficking; border control; and extremism. Potential security challenges following the withdrawal of NATO forces from Afghanistan provided decisive stimulus for more strategic exchanges between the EU and Central Asia. The second HLSD meeting, held on 11 March 2015, was a step towards upgrading cooperation between the EU and Central Asian countries, at a time when both Russia and China are increasing their engagement in the region.

[At a Glance](#) [EN](#)

[China's Foreign Policy and External Relations](#)

Publication type Study

Date 07-07-2015

External author Matthieu BURNAY, Kolja RAUBE and Jan WOUTERS

Policy area Foreign Affairs | Global Governance | International Trade | Security and Defence

Keyword Africa | ASEAN countries | Asia and Oceania | China | cooperation agreement (EU) | economic geography | economic policy | economic relations | ECONOMICS | Europe | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | financing and investment | foreign policy | GEOGRAPHY | India | international affairs | International Monetary Fund | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international sanctions | international security | investment abroad | Iran | Japan | Libya | non-proliferation of arms | North Korea | Pakistan | political framework | political geography | POLITICS | politics and public safety | regional security | rule of law | Russia | sustainable development | Syria | territorial dispute | terrorism | Ukraine | UN Security Council | United Nations | world organisations | World Trade Organisation

Summary This study provides an overview of China's current approach to foreign policy and external relations. It focuses more particularly on the role and actions of China in global governance, its territorial claims and relations with countries in Asia, and its emergence as an important actor in Central and Eastern Europe as well as in the EU's Eastern Neighbourhood. It assesses the implications for the EU and makes recommendations on how the EU should deepen its strategic partnership with China. The study argues that China has not made a unilateral and exclusive turn towards assertiveness in its foreign policy. China's foreign policy assertiveness represents a policy choice that should be understood in the broader context of its external relations, which is one of uncertainty. Both the impact of China's emergence in international affairs and the use China intends to make of its power and influence remain uncertain. This uncertainty is explained by the interdependence between a number of international and domestic factors as well as by the absence of a grand strategy. The uncertainty in China's foreign policy opens avenues for the EU to influence China and further deepen the scope of the EU-China Strategic Partnership.

[Study](#) [EN](#)

[China's leading role in the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 26-06-2015

Author GRIEGER Gisela

Policy area Foreign Affairs

Keyword Asia and Oceania | Asian organisation | autonomous movement | China | cooperation policy | economic cooperation | economic geography | ENERGY | energy policy | energy supply | EU relations | Europe | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | extra-European organisations | foreign policy | GEOGRAPHY | geopolitics | humanities | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | military cooperation | political geography | POLITICS | politics and public safety | regional security | Russia | SCIENCE | terrorism

Summary China is one of the six founding members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), which was established in 2001 as a regional organisation for non-traditional security cooperation between China, Russia and four Central Asian states: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. Although the SCO Charter sets out a broad array of objectives and potential areas of cooperation, the SCO has so far focused on, and gained most visibility through, its fight against regional terrorism, ethnic separatism and religious extremism. For China, as for the other members, the SCO represents a new and unique cooperation model, reflecting its vision of a multipolar world order as opposed to cooperation models based on US hegemony and unilateralism. Since the SCO's inception, China has pushed its agenda and has successfully pursued its national security, geopolitical and economic interests. It has used the SCO umbrella as a multilateral platform to address external threats posed by non-state actors on its vulnerable western border; to gain a strong economic and political foothold in Central Asia without putting the Sino-Russian strategic partnership at risk; and to enhance its energy security through large-scale infrastructure investment in, and trade with, the Central Asian member states. A first expansion in SCO membership, expected for July 2015, and the looming security vacuum in Afghanistan could both raise the SCO's regional and international profile and present new challenges. For further information on the SCO as a whole, please see our companion briefing which provides an overview of the Organisation.

[Briefing](#) [EN](#)

Russia: Arms control and non-proliferation

Publication type At a Glance

Date 22-06-2015

Author RUSSELL Martin

Policy area Foreign Affairs | Security and Defence

Keyword America | arms control | arms trade | bilateral relations | conventional weapon | defence | defence policy | disarmament | economic geography | Europe | foreign policy | GEOGRAPHY | geopolitics | humanities | international affairs | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | NATO | non-proliferation of arms | political geography | Russia | SCIENCE | United States | Wassenaar arrangement | weapon of mass destruction | world organisations

Summary Arms control and non-proliferation agreements are an important part of Europe's post-Cold War security order, now looking increasingly fragile due to the Ukraine crisis. Numerous concerns have been raised about Russia's commitments on weapons of mass destruction and conventional arms.

At a Glance [EN](#)

Pakistan and China: 'Iron Brothers' Forever?

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 18-06-2015

Author VANDEWALLE Laurence

Policy area Development and Humanitarian Aid | Foreign Affairs | Human Rights | International Trade | Security and Defence

Keyword Afghanistan | Asia and Oceania | bilateral agreement | China | common foreign and security policy | cooperation policy | cross-border cooperation | development aid | economic geography | economic relations | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | financing and investment | foreign policy | free-trade agreement | GEOGRAPHY | India | international affairs | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | international trade | investment abroad | Iran | Kashmir question | LAW | national minority | Pakistan | political geography | regional security | rights and freedoms | Saudi Arabia | TRADE

Summary The Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the People's Republic of China have enjoyed long-lasting and friendly ties – despite their ideological differences, evident in their very names. The two share far more than a 520 kilometre border, as underscored by the April 2015 visit of Chinese President Xi Jinping to Pakistan. On that trip – his first trip abroad in 2015 – Xi announced a EUR 41.30-billion commitment to building a multi-faceted network called the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). The CPEC can be understood as part of China's 'pivot to Asia' and plays a role in Beijing's broader 'One Belt One Road' initiative. If completed, the CPEC has the potential to fundamentally alter South Asia's economy and geopolitics.

In-Depth Analysis [EN](#)

Evaluation of the EU-India Strategic Partnership and the Potential for its Revitalisation

Publication type Study

Date 18-06-2015

External author Gulshan SACHDEVA (Centre for European Studies, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, India)

Policy area Evaluation of Law and Policy in Practice | Foreign Affairs | International Trade | Security and Defence

Keyword Afghanistan | America | Asia and Oceania | China | civil society | cooperation agreement (EU) | cooperation policy | defence | defence policy | development policy | economic geography | economic policy | economic relations | ECONOMICS | ENERGY | energy cooperation | Europe | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | financing and investment | foreign policy | France | GEOGRAPHY | Germany | human rights | India | international affairs | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | international trade | investment abroad | Italy | LAW | maritime safety | marketing | migration | migration | negotiation of an agreement (EU) | Pakistan | political geography | POLITICS | politics and public safety | renewable energy | rights and freedoms | Russia | scientific cooperation | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | soft energy | terrorism | TRADE | trade by country | trade statistics | TRANSPORT | transport policy | Ukraine | United Kingdom | United Nations | United States | UNO

Summary The EU-India strategic partnership has lost momentum. Bilateral ties are not receiving sufficient priority from both sides. Economics remains at the core of this relationship. Since negotiations on the Broad-based Trade and Investment Agreement (BTIA) may take time to be concluded, EU-India ties should not be held hostage to developments at BTIA level. On defence and security matters, India deals with EU Member States directly and has a good framework for cooperation with major European powers. The recent Indian decision to buy Rafale jets from France will also have long-term implications for EU-India links. Unlike its partnerships with the US and Russia, India has yet to discover the relevance of EU-India relations within evolving Asian security and economic architecture. Growing Indo-American relations and the close transatlantic partnership could provide new opportunities to work together. Collaboration in research and innovation has expanded significantly and dialogues on global governance, energy, counter-terrorism, migration and mobility as well as human rights all show great potential. New dialogues could be initiated on Afghanistan, maritime security, development cooperation and the Middle-East. Indian engagement in resolving the Ukraine crisis could be explored.

Study [EN](#)

[G7 Summit in Schloss Elmau: A Tighter Agenda, with Wider Impact?](#)

Publication type [In-Depth Analysis](#)

Date 10-06-2015

Author TROSZCZYNSKA VAN GENDEREN Wanda

Policy area [Democracy](#) | [Development and Humanitarian Aid](#) | [Foreign Affairs](#) | [Global Governance](#) | [Human Rights](#) | [International Trade](#) | [Security and Defence](#)

Keyword [America](#) | [Asia and Oceania](#) | [Canada](#) | [climate change policy](#) | [economic geography](#) | [economic policy](#) | [economic relations](#) | [ECONOMICS](#) | [ENERGY](#) | [energy policy](#) | [energy policy](#) | [ENVIRONMENT](#) | [environmental policy](#) | [EU institutions and European civil service](#) | [Europe](#) | [EUROPEAN UNION](#) | [foreign policy](#) | [France](#) | [GEOGRAPHY](#) | [Germany](#) | [group of leading industrialised countries](#) | [international affairs](#) | [INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS](#) | [INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS](#) | [international security](#) | [international trade](#) | [Italy](#) | [Japan](#) | [ministerial meeting](#) | [political geography](#) | [President of the Commission](#) | [President of the European Council](#) | [Russia](#) | [summit meeting](#) | [sustainable development](#) | [TRADE](#) | [trade relations](#) | [Ukraine](#) | [United Kingdom](#) | [United States](#) | [world organisations](#)

Summary The 7-8 June 2015 Group of Seven (G7) summit in Schloss Elmau (Germany) marked the second meeting of seven leading industrialised nations without Russia since the disbanding of the Group of Eight (G8). The group's smaller configuration – a response to Russia's illegal annexation of Crimea – appears here to stay. The summit provided an opportunity for G7 leaders to discuss a number of topics pertaining to foreign policy, economy, health, energy, climate and sustainable development. Ukraine and the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) featured prominently on the meeting's agenda, as did discussions on to the post-2015 development and climate agendas. The revival of the G7 has served to ensure its members' unity on key policy files, shape joint policy responses and influence EU policies and global governance, particularly through its nexus with the Group of 20 (G20), the United Nations and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). The German presidency of G7 has been praised its inclusive approach ahead of the summit, with consultations conducted with non-governmental stakeholders.

[In-Depth Analysis](#) [EN](#)

[Shaping and Controlling Foreign Policy - Parliamentary Diplomacy and Oversight, and the Role of the European Parliament](#)

Publication type [Study](#)

Date 04-06-2015

Author BAJTAY PETER

Policy area [Development and Humanitarian Aid](#) | [Foreign Affairs](#) | [Security and Defence](#)

Keyword [America](#) | [common foreign and security policy](#) | [economic geography](#) | [EU institutions and European civil service](#) | [Europe](#) | [European construction](#) | [European External Action Service](#) | [European integration](#) | [European Parliament](#) | [EUROPEAN UNION](#) | [European Union law](#) | [foreign policy](#) | [France](#) | [GEOGRAPHY](#) | [Germany](#) | [inter-parliamentary cooperation](#) | [international affairs](#) | [international relations](#) | [INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS](#) | [international security](#) | [national parliament](#) | [parliament](#) | [parliamentary assembly](#) | [parliamentary diplomacy](#) | [parliamentary scrutiny](#) | [parliamentary system](#) | [political framework](#) | [political geography](#) | [POLITICS](#) | [powers of the EP](#) | [presidential régime](#) | [representative democracy](#) | [Treaty of Lisbon](#) | [United Kingdom](#) | [United States](#)

Summary In the post-Cold War international system, new actors, including parliaments, emerge and they challenge the traditional dominance by governments of international relations and foreign policy. In democratic societies it is increasingly difficult to sustain the traditional notion that foreign policy is incompatible with democratic decision-making and scrutiny and that state sovereignty in this domain is the exclusive, unquestionable competence of governments, as the perceived sole representative of the state. As the core institution of democracy and elected representatives, parliaments are increasingly expected to contribute to resolving complex foreign policy and international issues which are impacting more and more directly on citizens' lives by discussing diverse views on strategic direction and policy priorities, by legitimising complex policies and initiatives and by building up public trust (and support) on complex issues in a way that is comprehensible to citizens. The paper examines the role and functions of parliaments in shaping and controlling foreign policy, also by discussing some case studies (US, German, British and French). It reflects particularly on the gradual parliamentarisation of Member State-dominated EU foreign policy. It analyses the nature of the European Parliament's actorhood in international relations, the EP's emerging role in EU foreign policy as well as the tools and powers available to exert influence on the Union's decisions and relations. It finally concludes that EU foreign policy can become efficient and democratic at the same time in the process of building an EU 'representative democracy'.

[Study](#) [EN](#)

[The 2015 G7 summit: Seeking common ground on global issues](#)

Publication type [Briefing](#)

Date 02-06-2015

Author SZCZEPANSKI Marcin

Policy area Global Governance

Keyword [Africa](#) | [Africa](#) | [aid to refugees](#) | [climate change](#) | [common foreign and security policy](#) | [cooperation policy](#) | [deterioration of the environment](#) | [development policy](#) | [economic conditions](#) | [economic geography](#) | [economic policy](#) | [economic recession](#) | [ECONOMICS](#) | [ENVIRONMENT](#) | [Europe](#) | [European construction](#) | [EUROPEAN UNION](#) | [foreign policy](#) | [GEOGRAPHY](#) | [globalisation](#) | [group of leading industrialised countries](#) | [international affairs](#) | [INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS](#) | [INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS](#) | [international security](#) | [marine environment](#) | [natural environment](#) | [political geography](#) | [position of women](#) | [Russia](#) | [security of supply](#) | [social affairs](#) | [SOCIAL QUESTIONS](#) | [summit meeting](#) | [the EU's international role](#) | [trade](#) | [TRADE](#) | [Ukraine](#) | [world organisations](#)

Summary The Group of Seven (G7) is an informal forum for international cooperation consisting of seven leading industrialised nations (Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the UK and the USA). The heads of state or government of these countries have convened annual meetings since 1975 to discuss issues of global interest. The group has an informal nature and operates without a permanent secretariat. A rotating presidency is responsible for preparation of its annual summits. Since 1981, the EU has taken part in all G7 sessions.

The next Summit will be held under the German presidency on 7 and 8 June 2015 in Schloss Elmau, Bavaria. The main points on the agenda will be the global economy, foreign and security policies, development, and climate issues. The leaders will also be discussing the UN conferences taking place later in 2015, the post-2015 agenda and many other specific issues such as resource efficiency, the marine environment and energy security.

Preparations for the Summit included engagement with representatives of civil society (such as non-governmental organisations, the science and research community, and business associations) and three ministerial meetings (with the participation of foreign, energy, and finance ministers respectively) which helped to set the Summit agenda. The programme will however only be finalised at the last minute, dependent on the most pressing recent developments.

[Briefing](#) [EN](#)

[The Summit of the Americas](#)

Publication type [At a Glance](#)

Date 26-05-2015

Author GOMEZ RAMIREZ Enrique

Policy area Foreign Affairs

Keyword [America](#) | [contemporary history](#) | [cooperation policy](#) | [criminal law](#) | [Cuba](#) | [demography and population](#) | [drug traffic](#) | [economic cooperation](#) | [economic geography](#) | [EU institutions and European civil service](#) | [EUROPEAN UNION](#) | [extra-European organisations](#) | [foreign policy](#) | [Free Trade Area of the Americas](#) | [GEOGRAPHY](#) | [human rights](#) | [humanities](#) | [indigenous population](#) | [institutional structure](#) | [international affairs](#) | [international charter](#) | [international cooperation](#) | [INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS](#) | [INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS](#) | [international security](#) | [LAW](#) | [Organisation of American States](#) | [political geography](#) | [rights and freedoms](#) | [SCIENCE](#) | [SOCIAL QUESTIONS](#) | [summit meeting](#) | [United States](#)

Summary The Summit of the Americas is a unique forum that enables all heads of state from the continent to meet and discuss issues covering their hemisphere. Cuba's first ever attendance, at the forum's Seventh Summit, held in Panama in April 2015, marked a turning point in the process.

[At a Glance](#) [EN](#)

[Russia's armed forces: Reforms and challenges](#)

Publication type [In-Depth Analysis](#)

Date 29-04-2015

Author RUSSELL Martin

Policy area Foreign Affairs | Security and Defence

Keyword [armed forces](#) | [border war](#) | [computer crime](#) | [defence](#) | [defence policy](#) | [economic geography](#) | [EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS](#) | [Europe](#) | [foreign policy](#) | [GEOGRAPHY](#) | [geopolitics](#) | [humanities](#) | [information technology and data processing](#) | [institutional reform](#) | [INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS](#) | [INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS](#) | [international security](#) | [military equipment](#) | [NATO](#) | [political geography](#) | [political propaganda](#) | [POLITICS](#) | [politics and public safety](#) | [Russia](#) | [SCIENCE](#) | [Ukraine](#) | [world organisations](#)

Summary After a long period of neglect and decline, the Russian armed forces have once again taken centre stage. On top of their alleged involvement in Ukraine, incursions into the airspace and territorial waters of neighbouring countries are becoming more frequent, and large-scale military drills have been held throughout the country. The traditional Victory Day parade through Moscow on 9 May celebrates Russian military prowess.

In line with their increasingly active role, the Russian armed forces are undergoing a modernisation process with sweeping reforms and a major rearmament programme. In the context of rising tensions with NATO and a potentially escalating conflict in Ukraine, the crucial question is whether the country now has a modern fighting machine capable of taking on a more substantial adversary.

[In-Depth Analysis](#) [DE](#), [EN](#), [FR](#)

[Cuba: foreign policy and security aspects](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 17-04-2015

Author CIRLIG Carmen-Cristina

Policy area Foreign Affairs

Keyword America | arms industry | arms trade | Asia and Oceania | Brazil | China | Cuba | defence | defence budget | diplomatic relations | economic geography | economic relations | Europe | foreign policy | GEOGRAPHY | international affairs | international organisation | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international sanctions | international security | political geography | Russia | United States | Venezuela

Summary Having improved economic, trade and military ties with a large number of countries, Cuba is now focusing on the recent breakthrough in its strained relations with the United States. In terms of national security, lack of finances continues to constrain Cuba's armed forces.

[At a Glance](#) [EN](#)

[EU-Russia energy relations – stuck together?](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 23-03-2015

Author RUSSELL Martin

Policy area Energy | Foreign Affairs

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | common foreign and security policy | competition | dominant position | economic geography | economic sanctions | electrical and nuclear industries | ENERGY | energy policy | energy supply | Europe | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | foreign policy | gas industry | gas pipeline | GEOGRAPHY | international affairs | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international sanctions | international security | nuclear fuel | oil industry | organisation of transport | political geography | price of energy | Russia | security of supply | self-sufficiency in energy | trade | TRADE | TRANSPORT

Summary The EU's reliance on Russian energy is a long-standing concern that predates current tensions. While dependence shows no signs of diminishing, the EU has taken coordinated action to prepare for potential disruption to supplies, and the proposed Energy Union envisages even closer cooperation. However, issues such as energy sanctions and Russian nuclear fuel remain divisive.

[At a Glance](#) [EN](#)

[European defence cooperation: State of play and thoughts on an EU army](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 23-03-2015

Author CIRLIG Carmen-Cristina

Policy area Security and Defence

Keyword America | armed forces | common security and defence policy | cooperation policy | defence | defence budget | documentation | economic geography | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EU institutions and European civil service | EU Member State | Europe | European arms policy | European construction | European defence policy | European security | EUROPEAN UNION | foreign policy | GEOGRAPHY | international law | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | LAW | military cooperation | national sovereignty | NATO | political geography | President of the Commission | public statement | Russia | United States | world organisations

Summary The recent comments by European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker, welcoming the eventual creation of an EU army in the long run, have sparked a wide debate across European capitals and the expert community. If for some the possibility of an EU army represents an illusion that may distract EU Member States from dealing with the real issues at stake – strengthening their military capabilities, integrating defence planning and procurement and defining an overarching strategy – for others, the idea is a welcome incentive for reflection on European defence.

Conceivably prompted by the deteriorating security context just beyond Europe's borders, as well as the worsening relationship with Russia, the call for joint European armed forces comes amid a wider reassessment of European defence cooperation and the European security strategy initiated by the European Council in December 2013.

In advance of the next major debate on defence at the June 2015 European Council meeting, during which EU Heads of State or Government are expected to assess the progress achieved so far in security and defence matters, a number of ambitious proposals to advance towards more integration of European defence have been put forward.

[Briefing](#) [EN](#)

[Moldova's political parties: caught between the EU and Russia](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 16-03-2015

Author BENTZEN Naja

Policy area Foreign Affairs

Keyword association agreement (EU) | defence | economic geography | electoral procedure and voting | Europe | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | foreign policy | GEOGRAPHY | international affairs | international law | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | LAW | military manoeuvres | Moldova | parliamentary election | political coalition | political figure | political geography | political parties | political party | political situation | POLITICS | politics and public safety | referendum | Russia | self-determination | territorial law

Summary Moldova's political landscape reflects the country's deep split between EU and Russia. The main outcome of the parliamentary elections in November 2014 was a narrow victory for the pro-EU parties. The new minority government, appointed on 18 February, will continue Chisinau's European course, but remains fragile in light of persistent internal problems, the strengthened pro-Russian opposition as well as increasing economic, political and military pressure from Moscow.

[At a Glance](#) [EN](#)

[Belarus: an autocracy quashing all opposition](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 16-03-2015

Author BENTZEN Naja

Policy area Foreign Affairs

Keyword Belarus | common foreign and security policy | communications | economic geography | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | electoral law | electoral procedure and voting | Europe | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | foreign policy | GEOGRAPHY | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | monocracy | parliamentary election | pluralism in the media | political framework | political geography | political opposition | political situation | political violence | POLITICS | politics and public safety | presidential election | Russia | Ukraine

Summary Since 1994, President Alexander Lukashenko has effectively stifled all dissent in Belarus, and his 'Belaya Rus' party is de facto the only valid political force in Minsk. In the short term, the splintered political opposition is unlikely to pose a serious challenge to Lukashenko, who can expect to be re-elected in the presidential elections later this year, despite the country's financial woes and a looming risk of political unrest.

[At a Glance](#) [EN](#)

[Ukraine after Minsk II: the next level](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 16-03-2015

Author BENTZEN Naja | SABBATI Giulio

Policy area Foreign Affairs

Keyword America | autonomous movement | border war | civil war | common foreign and security policy | communications | communications policy | economic conditions | economic geography | economic situation | ECONOMICS | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | establishment of peace | Europe | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | foreign policy | GEOGRAPHY | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | military intervention | military occupation | NATO | political geography | POLITICS | politics and public safety | Russia | settlement of disputes | Ukraine | United States | world organisations

Summary One month after leaders from France, Germany, Ukraine and Russia reached a 13-point peace agreement in Minsk on 12 February 2015 – Minsk II, a follow-up to the September 2014 Minsk Protocol – the ceasefire is shaky, although it has at least reduced the number of deaths in combat, and the pressure on the international community to act continues.

While Russia denies accusations that it has been sending troops and weapons to support separatists in Ukraine's east, the undeclared 'hybrid war' is developing on all fronts. In the face of a shaky ceasefire and Ukraine's crumbling economy, the EU, the US and major international actors are discussing possible political, military, and economic responses to the deteriorating crisis. At the same time, EU Member States and NATO are stepping up efforts to counter Russia's 'information warfare'.

The on-going crisis in Ukraine erupted after former President Viktor Yanukovich refused to sign an Association Agreement with the EU in November 2013 and sought closer ties to Russia. Russia's active role in the eastern Ukraine crisis has exposed divides in the EU and the international community on how to react to hybrid threats. It comes at a time when the effectiveness of the EU's Neighbourhood Policy, including the Eastern Partnership, is being questioned.

This briefing is a follow-up to the 12 February 2015 briefing 'Minsk peace agreement: still to be consolidated on the ground'.

[Briefing](#) [EN](#)

Serbia's EU accession: need for greater efforts

Publication type At a Glance

Date 02-03-2015

Author LILYANOVA Velina

Policy area Foreign Affairs

Keyword accession to the European Union | budget policy | common foreign and security policy | communications | corruption | criminal law | economic geography | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | electoral procedure and voting | ENERGY | energy policy | energy policy | Europe | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | foreign policy | freedom of communication | GEOGRAPHY | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | judicial reform | Kosovo | Kosovo question | LAW | organisation of the legal system | parliamentary election | pluralism in the media | political geography | POLITICS | public finance and budget policy | rights and freedoms | Serbia | stabilisation and association agreement | tax collection | taxation

Summary The European Commission's 2014 annual progress report on Serbia is the first since the formal start of the country's accession negotiations with the EU. The first intergovernmental conference on 21 January 2014 launched this new stage in EU-Serbia relations. Progress monitoring will be even closer from now on, while the carrying out of reforms

At a Glance [EN](#)

Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia: impasse?

Publication type At a Glance

Date 02-03-2015

Author LILYANOVA Velina

Policy area Foreign Affairs

Keyword accession to the European Union | early election | economic geography | electoral procedure and voting | Europe | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | foreign policy | GEOGRAPHY | Greece | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | North Macedonia | objections to an election result | parliamentary election | political crisis | political geography | POLITICS | politics and public safety | presidential election

Summary The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia obtained EU candidate status in December 2005. Every year since 2009, the Commission's progress reports have recommended starting accession talks. The European Council has yet to follow these recommendations and approve the launch of negotiations. With the name issue unresolved there is little prospect of a change in the Council.

At a Glance [EN](#)

Future scenarios for US-Cuba relations

Publication type Briefing

Date 09-02-2015

Author PUCCIO Laura

Policy area Foreign Affairs

Keyword America | common commercial policy | Cuba | economic conditions | economic geography | economic sanctions | economic situation | ECONOMICS | foreign policy | GEOGRAPHY | international affairs | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | international trade | legislative-executive relations | peaceful co-existence | political geography | political situation | POLITICS | politics and public safety | TRADE | trade dispute | trade policy | United States

Summary On 17 December 2014, US President, Barack Obama, announced the start of a new phase in US-Cuba relations. The US embargo to Cuba has been in place for more than 50 years. International opposition to the embargo has grown since the beginning of the 1990s when US embargo legislation started to present extraterritorial implications. More recently, domestic support for the embargo has also started fading. US economic interest in the island has risen since Cuba became an importer of US agricultural products, and a series of economic policy reforms were introduced by the Castro government opening the way toward a mixed economy model. In this context and after successfully concluding a prisoner-exchange deal with Cuba, President Obama announced a period of normalisation. This normalisation process will most probably be constrained by the still strong opposition from Congress. The powers and discretion of the President to modify the embargo rules are limited by legislation dating back to the 1990s. Radical changes in relations between the two countries will therefore be dependent on Congress's willingness to amend or completely revoke embargo legislation. Opposition to major changes in the embargo rules is still strong in Congress, as political reforms in Cuba have lagged behind economic policy changes. This is likely to lead to a slower and more prudent process for dismantling the embargo. The maintenance of the main embargo legislation means that some of the rules with extraterritorial implications will remain in place. In particular, the rules from the 1996 Helms Burton Act and Section 211 of the 1998 Omnibus Appropriations Act that the EU had challenged in the past will, for the moment, remain in place.

Briefing [EN](#)

[Azerbaijan's political parties and the EU](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 29-01-2015

Author LECARTE Jacques

Policy area Foreign Affairs

Keyword allocation of seats | association agreement (EU) | Azerbaijan | cooperation policy | electoral procedure and voting | energy cooperation | Europe | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | foreign policy | GEOGRAPHY | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | parliamentary election | political geography | political opposition | political parties | political party | political situation | POLITICS | politics and public safety | presidential election

Summary Azerbaijan's President Ilham Aliyev plays an omnipotent role in the country's political system, giving the different political parties no room for manoeuvre. The government is in favour of a strategic energy-focused partnership with the EU. The opposition, which is small and fragmented, advocates signing an Association Agreement with the EU as a way to improve democracy, human rights and living conditions.

[At a Glance](#) [EN](#)

[Georgia: political parties and the EU](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 29-01-2015

Author LECARTE Jacques

Policy area Foreign Affairs

Keyword accession to the European Union | allocation of seats | association agreement (EU) | economic geography | election monitoring | electoral procedure and voting | Europe | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | foreign policy | GEOGRAPHY | Georgia | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | parliamentary election | political geography | political opposition | political parties | political party | political situation | POLITICS | politics and public safety | presidential election | Russia

Summary Although majority and opposition differ on national policy issues, the rival political factions agree on Georgia's European future. In a common resolution, Georgian political parties have unanimously declared that integration into the EU represents the overarching priority of the country's foreign policy. However, this does not preclude constructive dialogue with the Russian Federation aimed at resolving conflicts and promoting good neighbourly relations.

[At a Glance](#) [EN](#)

[The Andean Community: political cooperation](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 09-12-2014

Author GOMEZ RAMIREZ Enrique

Policy area Foreign Affairs

Keyword Andean Community | Andean Community countries | arms trade | biodiversity | climate change policy | cooperation policy | corruption | criminal law | defence | democracy | drug traffic | economic geography | ENVIRONMENT | environmental cooperation | environmental policy | extra-European organisations | fight against crime | foreign policy | GEOGRAPHY | human rights | illicit trade | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | LAW | natural environment | political cooperation | political framework | POLITICS | regional security | rights and freedoms | social affairs | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | TRADE | trade policy

Summary The member countries of the Andean Community (CAN) have been successful in establishing cooperation in a number of political fields, such as democracy and human rights, foreign policy, security, the fight against corruption and drug trafficking, and environmental protection.

[At a Glance](#) [EN](#)

[ASEAN: building a Political-Security Community](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 02-12-2014

Author RUSSELL Martin

Policy area Foreign Affairs

Keyword ASEAN | ASEAN countries | Asia and Oceania | China | cooperation policy | creation of nuclear-free zones | economic geography | EU relations | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | extra-European organisations | foreign policy | GEOGRAPHY | human rights | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | LAW | member country | political cooperation | regional security | rights and freedoms

Summary Since its inception in 1967, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) has been a key foreign policy and security player in the region. Like the EU, it has helped to bring stability to a formerly turbulent region. In an effort to put cooperation on a more structured basis, ASEAN's 2007 Charter establishes a Political-Security Community as one of the organisation's three pillars (the other two being the Economic and Socio-Cultural Communities).

[At a Glance](#) [EN](#)

[Japan's constitutional debate on the use of military power](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 12-11-2014

Author COSTANTINI Lorenzo

Policy area Foreign Affairs

Keyword America | armed forces | Asia and Oceania | China | constitution | cooperation policy | defence | defence policy | economic geography | EU relations | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | foreign policy | GEOGRAPHY | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | interpretation of the law | Japan | LAW | military cooperation | military intervention | pacifism | political geography | POLITICS | politics and public safety | sources and branches of the law | territorial dispute | United States

Summary Since its entry into force after the Second World War, Japan's pacifist constitution has never been amended, and any attempt to revise it has always been a major political issue. Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's new foreign policy aims at a more assertive role for the country as a global actor, including in security and defence. In July 2014, his coalition government put forward a proposal to reinterpret Article 9 of the country's constitution so as to allow the exercise of the right to collective self-defence, including (for the first time) the right to defend allies if they are under attack.

At a Glance [EN](#)

[A Comparative Study of EU and US Approaches to Human Rights in External Relations](#)

Publication type Study

Date 10-11-2014

External author Jan WOUTERS, Laura BEKE, Anna-Luise CHANÉ, David D'HOLLANDER and Kolja RAUBE (University of Leuven, Belgium)

Policy area Democracy | Foreign Affairs | Global Governance | Human Rights

Keyword America | common commercial policy | common foreign and security policy | comparative study | cooperation policy | democratisation | development aid | documentation | economic geography | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | executive power and public service | foreign policy | GEOGRAPHY | human rights | International Criminal Court | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | LAW | political geography | POLITICS | rights and freedoms | the EU's international role | TRADE | trade policy | trade policy | UN subsidiary body | United Nations | United States | world organisations

Summary Both the European Union (EU) and the United States (US) emphasise the centrality of human rights in their domestic and external policies. Despite their common attachment to human rights and a potential affinity of seemingly common transatlantic approaches to human rights issues in external policies, the EU and the US have diverged considerably in their respective promotion of human rights abroad. Drawing on the historical and legal underpinnings of human rights promotion in the EU and the US, the purpose of the present study is to provide a comparative analysis of how human rights are integrated and mainstreamed into their respective external policies, thereby using case studies such as EU Special Representatives/US Special Envoys, Democracy Promotion, the Human Rights Council and the International Criminal Court to contextualise the argument. To this end, the study outlines the intricacies behind the institutional set-up of EU and US external action, and delves into the specificities of human rights-related policy-making in the realm of traditional foreign policy, international trade and international development. The study concludes with the formulation of recommendations for the further integration of human rights in EU external policies, as well as to the future collaboration between the EU and the US on human rights.

Study [EN](#)

[Democratic People's Republic of Korea \(North Korea\): Kim Jong-un Softens his Punch](#)

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 06-11-2014

Author BANDONE Anete | BENDINI Roberto

Policy area Development and Humanitarian Aid | Human Rights | Security and Defence

Keyword America | Asia and Oceania | China | cooperation policy | economic conditions | economic geography | economic situation | ECONOMICS | electrical and nuclear industries | ENERGY | EU institutions and European civil service | EU relations | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | foreign aid | foreign policy | GEOGRAPHY | human rights | humanitarian aid | institutional structure | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | LAW | North Korea | nuclear policy | political geography | political situation | POLITICS | politics and public safety | rights and freedoms | South Korea | United States

Summary Kim Jong-un became the third leader in North Korea's history, after succeeding his father Kim Jong-il, who died in December 2011. The succession took place smoothly and the new leader follows his predecessor's repressive political line and insists on the development of a nuclear and space programme in an effort to reinforce the country's international position and secure external aid. Pyongyang succeeded in both launching an intercontinental rocket in December 2012 and testing its third nuclear bomb in February 2013. This caused an international outcry and resulted in more UN sanctions against the DPRK regime. The situation was normalised after China imposed severe limitations to bilateral trade and financial transactions. Since last year North Korea has softened its tone, even launching a 'charm offensive' to appease its opponents. Two decades after the great famine that killed more than one million people, agricultural production hardly covers the population's nutritional needs. North Korea depends mainly on aid granted by China and some other donors for its survival. The country is also one of the most repressive in the world and holds a very poor human rights record.

In-Depth Analysis [EN](#)

[Brazil: Promises of More Change – But in Which Direction?](#)

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 22-10-2014

Author TVEVAD Jesper

Policy area Democracy | Development and Humanitarian Aid | Foreign Affairs | International Trade

Keyword America | Brazil | corruption | criminal law | economic conditions | economic geography | economic reform | economic situation | economic structure | ECONOMICS | electoral procedure and voting | EU relations | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | foreign policy | GEOGRAPHY | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | interparliamentary relations | LAW | national accounts | parliament | political framework | political geography | political reform | political system | POLITICS | politics and public safety | poverty | presidential election | social affairs | social policy | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | TRADE | trade policy | trade policy

Summary On 26 October 2014, almost 142 million voters will elect Brazil's president for the next four years. The elections take place against a backdrop of economic stagnation and widespread discontent with inadequate public services and the political system, highlighted by social protests in 2013. After a decade of economic and social progress, and a parallel rise in the country's global stature, the sustainability of the country's last two decades of achievements is increasingly questioned. Facing these challenges, all major political forces have advocated 'change' in the run-up to the October elections. There are strong expectations that the government that takes over on 1 January 2015 will initiate a new phase in Brazil's social, economic and political development. The new government will have to address demands to renew the political system and to implement reforms to make the economy more competitive and capable of generating the growth needed to continue improving social conditions.

[In-Depth Analysis](#) [EN](#)

[Midterm Elections in the United States: What's at Stake?](#)

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 07-10-2014

Author TROSZCZYNSKA VAN GENDEREN Wanda

Policy area Foreign Affairs

Keyword America | economic geography | electoral procedure and voting | foreign policy | GEOGRAPHY | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | migration | migration policy | military intervention | parliamentary election | political geography | political majority | political situation | POLITICS | politics and public safety | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | terrorism | United States | voting intentions

Summary On 4 November 2014, midterm elections will be held for all 435 seats in the US House of Representatives and for 36 seats in the US Senate. Additionally, 36 of 50 states will hold gubernatorial races on that day. The Republican majority in the House of Representatives is widely expected to be maintained, and the Party stands a decent chance of gaining the six additional seats it would need to control the Senate as well – giving the party a hold over the entire Congress, with its legislative and oversight powers. Whatever results the Senate race produces, the midterms will not end the country's long-standing political gridlock. President Obama is certain to face a difficult two years before the end of his tenure.

[In-Depth Analysis](#) [EN](#)

[The World Bank Considers Feasible the Building of the Tajik Rogun Dam](#)

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 22-07-2014

Author GARCES DE LOS FAYOS TOURNAN Fernando | KERESLIDZE Nata

Policy area Foreign Affairs

Keyword AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES | Asia and Oceania | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | cultivation of agricultural land | economic analysis | economic consequence | ECONOMICS | electrical and nuclear industries | ENERGY | energy policy | engineering structure | ENVIRONMENT | environmental impact | environmental policy | feasibility study | foreign policy | GEOGRAPHY | hydroelectric development | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | irrigated agriculture | management | migration | natural environment | political geography | self-sufficiency in energy | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | Tajikistan | transfer of population | TRANSPORT | transport policy | United Nations | Uzbekistan | water management | water resources | World Bank

Summary Water issues in Central Asia, which have proven contentious since the breakup of the Soviet Union, have attracted international attention with the World Bank's recent impact assessment condoning Tajikistan's plan to build an enormous dam. The Rogun Dam, under construction for decades, is strongly contested by downstream Uzbekistan. Tensions between energy-deprived Tajikistan and water-starved Uzbekistan – exacerbated by the region's endemically unsustainable resource management and growing competition – have prevented the countries from pooling their complementary resources. Downstream Uzbekistan has applied political and economic pressure to its poorer upstream neighbour to ensure the huge Uzbek cotton fields continue to be watered. For its part, Tajikistan hopes to export electricity to Afghanistan with the hydropower project, which has suffered from a lack of funding as well as political wrangling. The dam, located in an earthquake-prone region, would be the tallest in the world – and the most cost-effective way to boost Tajikistan's economy and energy efficiency. According to the World Bank, whose reports included technological and environmental considerations, the construction and operation of the dam are feasible, and the proper application of international standards would reduce the risk of failure. The Bank also recommends that downstream countries have an equity participation in the project.

[In-Depth Analysis](#) [EN](#)

[EU and US Trade Policy and its Global Implications \(TPP, TTIP and China\)](#)

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 07-07-2014

Author BENDINI Roberto | PRZETACZNIK Jakub

Policy area Foreign Affairs | International Trade

Keyword America | Asia and Oceania | China | common commercial policy | economic analysis | economic consequence | economic geography | ECONOMICS | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | foreign policy | free-trade agreement | GEOGRAPHY | geopolitics | humanities | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | international trade | liberalisation of trade | political geography | SCIENCE | TRADE | trade agreement (EU) | trade by country | trade policy | trade policy | United States

Summary The focus of US foreign policy has shifted to Asia in a dramatic way. With the 'pivot' strategy, the US intends to reaffirm its political role in the region and secure a stronger economic position, not least by concluding an ambitious Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) agreement. The new strategy will inevitably have an impact on China, and may be seen as a US response to China's increasing assertiveness in world affairs. As a result of the global economic crisis, the US has also adopted a forward-looking foreign trade strategy aimed at rebalancing external deficits, create new jobs and increase industrial production in the US. In pursuing these economic aims, the US has essentially turned towards Asia, apparently at the expense of its preferential relations with the EU. With the launch of the US-EU Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) in 2013, the scenario changed dramatically, with the US negotiating two major deals at the same time. Its economic focus notwithstanding, the TTIP has strong and obvious political implications that are not without risks for the EU. In this context, China faces a serious dilemma. As joining the TPP on the conditions set by the US does not seem to be a viable solution, Beijing is left with two alternatives: to strengthen its hold over Asian economies or to conclude an ambitious deal with the EU. Both options are feasible, but neither is without consequences.

[In-Depth Analysis](#) [EN](#)

[A new phase in EU-Cuba relations](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 23-06-2014

Author LECARTE Jacques

Policy area Foreign Affairs

Keyword America | common foreign and security policy | cooperation policy | cooperation policy | Cuba | dissidence | economic geography | economic policy | economic reform | economic structure | ECONOMICS | EU aid | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | executive power and public service | foreign policy | GEOGRAPHY | government policy | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | negotiation of an agreement (EU) | political geography | POLITICS | politics and public safety | social affairs | social change | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | United States

Summary After 18 years of restricted policy, the EU and Cuba have started negotiations towards a future bilateral agreement aiming at supporting economic and democratic reforms. With power passing definitively from Fidel to Raúl Castro, Cuba has shown more openness to modernisation of the country. This new prospect of a normalisation in EU-Cuba relations may even stimulate some policy change in Washington.

[At a Glance](#) [EN](#)

[The Implications of the G7's Revival for the EU and Global Governance: Reflections from the 3-4 June 2014 Brussels Summit](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 12-06-2014

Author TROSZCZYNSKA VAN GENDEREN Wanda

Policy area Foreign Affairs | Global Governance

Keyword climate change | common foreign and security policy | deterioration of the environment | economic geography | economic policy | ECONOMICS | ENERGY | energy policy | energy supply | ENVIRONMENT | Europe | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | foreign policy | GEOGRAPHY | globalisation | group of leading industrialised countries | international affairs | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international sanctions | international security | political geography | Russia | security of supply | summit meeting | the EU's international role | trade | TRADE | Ukraine | world organisations

Summary The 3-4 June Brussels summit of the world's leading industrial nations confirmed a change in the group's configuration that holds promise and challenges for the EU. Without Russia at the table – the result of the Group of 7 leaders' decision to exclude the country after it unlawfully annexed Crimea – the meeting produced a strongly-worded condemnation of Moscow's interference in Ukraine, but also important decisions on energy security that will support EU efforts to diversify and shore up its energy supply. In general, the tighter structure of the group may presage greater internal harmony, although possibly also greater external pressures. The revival of the Group of 7 (G7) formation, after years of Russian participation in the Group of 8 (G8), risks alienating some international partners, notably within the Group of 20 (G20). While it may be too early to proclaim, as some have, the 'death of the G8', it is time to anticipate the changed contours of a post-G8 world, which will alter the dynamics of global governance – including in the G20, NATO, the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and the United Nations – as well as for the EU.

[Briefing](#) [EN](#)

[India's 2014 Legislative Elections: The Lack of Economic Miracles Lands the Congress Party on the Opposition Benches](#)

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 27-05-2014

Author BIERBRAUER Elfriede | VANDEWALLE Laurence

Policy area Democracy | Foreign Affairs

Keyword Asia and Oceania | economic conditions | economic development | economic geography | ECONOMICS | election campaign | election result | electoral procedure and voting | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | executive power and public service | foreign policy | free-trade agreement | GEOGRAPHY | government policy | head of government | India | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | international trade | national election | negotiation of an agreement (EU) | parliamentary election | political coalition | political majority | POLITICS | politics and public safety | TRADE

Summary The EU's relationship with India and the floundering bilateral trade negotiations may be reinvigorated by the results of the country's elections for India's lower house of parliament – the Lok Sabha – held between 7 April and 12 May 2014. The landslide victory of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and its leader, Narendra Modi, came at the expense of the Congress party; after being in power for all but 18 years since the country's independence in 1947, Congress obtained only 44 seats – less than 8 % of the total – in the recent ballot. The new Common People's Party, which performed well in 2013-regional elections in the capital, Delhi, obtained only four seats nationwide. Modi, a Hindu nationalist who led the state of Gujarat, had been shunned by the EU and the US for many years for his part in the 2002 Gujarat riots. But between the recent elections and his investiture, on 26 May 2014, both transatlantic powers made friendly overtures to the new prime minister. Negotiations within the BJP and with potential coalition partners are well underway, and the composition of the new Indian government should be known soon. As Modi's election campaign focussed on domestic issues, and in particular on the ailing Indian economy, the BJP-led government's stance on foreign relations – including on cross-border trade and investment and negotiations with the EU on the stalled free trade agreement – will soon crystallise.

[In-Depth Analysis](#) [EN](#)

[EU-Japan: forging strategic ties](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 10-04-2014

Author D'AMBROGIO Enrico

Policy area Foreign Affairs

Keyword agricultural trade | Asia and Oceania | association agreement (EU) | cooperation policy | cooperation policy | defence | defence policy | economic geography | economic policy | economic policy | ECONOMICS | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | export (EU) | foreign policy | free-trade agreement | GEOGRAPHY | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | international trade | Japan | liberalisation of trade | market access | public contract | territorial dispute | trade | TRADE | trade policy

Summary The EU and Japan share common values and principles and enjoy solid, long-term political and economic ties. Both sides believe the time has come to develop the large and unexploited potential in their relationship. Therefore, the EU and Japan are currently negotiating two agreements: a Strategic Partnership Agreement and an Economic Partnership Agreement/Free Trade Agreement.

[At a Glance](#) [EN](#)

[The Ides of March in the Eastern neighbourhood: An overview](#)

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 17-03-2014

Author GARCÉS DE LOS FAYOS TOURNAN Fernando | RAMET Valérie

Policy area Foreign Affairs | Global Governance

Keyword Armenia | association agreement (EU) | Azerbaijan | Belarus | economic geography | Europe | European construction | European neighbourhood policy | EUROPEAN UNION | foreign policy | GEOGRAPHY | Georgia | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | Moldova | political geography | Russia | Ukraine

Summary The year 2013 was supposed to mark a turning point in the relations between the EU and the Eastern Partnership (EaP) countries. Scheduled at the end of November 2013, the Vilnius Summit was supposed to bring a new impetus into the overall EaP policy. Yet two of the Partnership's countries made sudden reversals before the summit – Armenia in September, and Ukraine only days before the meeting. In both cases, pressure from Russia contributed to the country's change of course, forcing the EU to trim its ambitions for the summit, and perhaps the partnership as a whole. Some tangible results were achieved during the gathering with Georgia and Moldova initialising their Association Agreement with the EU and Azerbaijan signing a visa facilitation agreement with the EU. If the Vilnius Summit has brought about mixed results, it provides an opportunity to review the relations that the EU has developed with the six countries participating into the EaP initiative. At the eve of a new legislative term, this review is all the more important as the EaP policy will soon celebrate its 5th anniversary and that an important stock taking exercise will have to be carried out on this occasion. And while the relationship with Ukraine has picked up considerably since November's derailment, it remains to be seen how the overall EaP policy will be affected by the drastic deterioration of the relations with Russia following its military intervention in Crimea, which has unfolded a major international crisis.

[In-Depth Analysis](#) [EN](#)

[Iceland: On the Verge of Withdrawing its EU Accession Application?](#)

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 07-03-2014

Author DE MICCO Pasquale | GARGES DE LOS FAYOS TOURNAN Fernando

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues | Foreign Affairs

Keyword accession to the European Union | AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES | banking system | economic analysis | economic conditions | economic consequence | economic geography | economic situation | ECONOMICS | EU relations | Europe | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | financial institutions and credit | fisheries | fisheries policy | foreign policy | GEOGRAPHY | Iceland | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | monetary crisis | monetary relations | political geography | political situation | POLITICS | politics and public safety | public debt | public finance and budget policy

Summary Iceland's application for EU membership, launched in the aftermath of the financial crisis, is today at a turning point. A new government, elected in April 2013, has presented the country's parliament with a proposal to withdraw the accession application. While the move has triggered protests and petitions against the proposal, the government has also rejected a widely requested referendum on whether to pursue accession. The government's position reflects two thorny issues in the bilateral relationship: the 'mackerel war' – in which the EU has argued that Iceland has overfished the mackerel in Icelandic waters – and Iceland's refusal to reimburse the British and Dutch depositors holding accounts with Icelandic banks before the banks collapsed. Iceland's position, which favoured domestic over foreign depositors, was backed in January 2013 by a decision issued by the European Free Trade Area (EFTA) court. The new government in Reykjavik may also be sensitive to more general concerns about EU membership and the adoption of the euro. The small Nordic country has largely recovered from its deep economic crisis, thanks to a devalued currency and a strong trade surplus – a turnaround made possible in part by the country's distance from the euro area.

In-Depth Analysis [EN](#)

[Kingdom of Thailand: A Distressing Standoff](#)

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 26-02-2014

Author ARMANOVICA Marika

Policy area Democracy | Foreign Affairs

Keyword Asia and Oceania | common foreign and security policy | democracy | early election | economic conditions | economic geography | economic situation | ECONOMICS | electoral procedure and voting | EU relations | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | foreign policy | GEOGRAPHY | human rights | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | LAW | political crisis | political framework | political situation | POLITICS | politics and public safety | rights and freedoms | rule of law | social framework | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | social situation | Thailand

Summary Snap elections for Thailand's House of Representatives were held on 2 February 2014 against a backdrop of public demonstrations, violence and political polarisation. Rather than end the crisis, the ballot has further enflamed the tense situation in the country, and re-run elections have yet to be completed in some constituencies. Between the 2011 general elections, won by the Pheu Thai Party (PTP), and November 2013, Thailand experienced a period of superficial calm. Yet, the divisions between PTP, backed by Thailand's rural communities, and the opposition, supported mainly by Bangkok's middle class and by constituencies in the south, remained irreconcilable. The fragile political peace was broken when the government of Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra's (PTP) introduced an amnesty bill that would have allowed her brother, former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra (deposed in 2006), to return from exile without being imprisoned for corruption. The political stalemate in Thailand, which has continued for eight years in one form or another, highlights the importance of holding a comprehensive debate about the country's political culture and a thorough re-negotiation of the way in which it is governed. Yet such a prospect appears unlikely in the current situation, as positions are ever more entrenched.

In-Depth Analysis [EN](#)

[Russia's G8 Presidency: With an Ambitious Agenda, Can Moscow Deliver?](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 11-02-2014

Author TROSZCZYNSKA VAN GENDEREN Wanda

Policy area Foreign Affairs

Keyword criminal law | drug traffic | economic geography | Europe | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | foreign policy | GEOGRAPHY | group of leading industrialised countries | international affairs | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | LAW | political geography | POLITICS | politics and public safety | Russia | settlement of disputes | summit meeting | terrorism | the EU's international role | world organisations

Summary In January 2014, the Russian Federation took over the G8 presidency from the United Kingdom, and with it the responsibility for shaping the year's political agenda and for organising this year's G8 summit, to be held on 4-5 June 2014 in Sochi. A latecomer to the G8 (having become a member in 1997), Russia has assertively pursued its foreign policy interests within the group. The current Russian presidency has decided on a range of priorities, largely corresponding to Moscow's own current policy interests and to the priorities of Russia's previous, 2006 G8 presidency. This year's foci include the fight against drug trafficking and terrorism, conflict resolution, disaster management and health security. While Russia has said it supports enhancing the parliamentary dimension of the G8, this year's annual speakers' meeting has again been scheduled after the summit itself – on 5-7 September 2014 (in Moscow) – which means the speakers' meeting will take place too late to feed recommendations and insights into the summit itself. While the G8 has been accused of elitism and of failing to fully implement its summits' commitments, the group remains an important platform for its members to discuss – and often find common positions on – key foreign policy issues.

Briefing [EN](#)

[Iran at a Crossroads: What Will Follow the Nuclear Deal?](#)

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 11-12-2013

Author BENDINI Roberto | HAKALA Pekka

Policy area Democracy | Foreign Affairs

Keyword Asia and Oceania | economic conditions | economic geography | economic situation | ECONOMICS | electrical and nuclear industries | ENERGY | foreign policy | GEOGRAPHY | human rights | international affairs | international agreement | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | Iran | LAW | nuclear non-proliferation | nuclear policy | political geography | political situation | POLITICS | politics and public safety | regional security | rights and freedoms | social affairs | social change | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | Syria

Summary The agreement reached in Geneva on Iran's nuclear programme should allow Iran to return to the international scene as a political as well as a trade partner. While the terms of the deal will require attention and effort, hopes in Europe, Iran and the MENA region are running high for the first time in many years. Tehran could soon play the role of constructive regional power, helping resolve a wide range of regional security problems and serving as a motor of economic growth for the entire region. If the country's recently-elected president, Hassan Rouhani, also manages to carry out his ambitious political and economic reform programme, the Iranian people may gain civil rights and enjoy a more prosperous economic future. The EU has a strategic interest in supporting reformist forces within Iran.

In-Depth Analysis [EN](#)

[Egypt's Muslim Brotherhood experience International response and regional implications](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 02-12-2013

Author LATEK Marta

Policy area Foreign Affairs

Keyword Africa | Asia and Oceania | common foreign and security policy | coup d'état | culture and religion | economic geography | Egypt | Europe | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | foreign policy | GEOGRAPHY | Gulf States | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | Israel | political geography | political situation | political unrest | POLITICS | politics and public safety | regional security | religious fundamentalism | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | terrorism | Türkiye

Summary Accused of taking an authoritarian turn and being unable to sort Egypt's economic problems, Mohammed Morsi, the democratically elected Egyptian president was ousted earlier this year. The ensuing crackdown on his party, the Muslim Brotherhood (MB), has pushed the organisation to return to the underground organisation with which it had worked for decades. The implications are region-wide, not only because of Egypt's strategic position in the Middle East but also because of the impact the Egyptian episode could have for other MB-linked groups which are wide-spread in the region.

Briefing [EN](#)

[Ukraine's Foreign Policy Turn Leads to a Mass Roadblock](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 26-11-2013

Author CRAMPES Julien

Policy area Foreign Affairs

Keyword accession to the European Union | association agreement (EU) | cooperation policy | economic conditions | economic geography | economic situation | ECONOMICS | Europe | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | financial aid | foreign policy | GEOGRAPHY | geopolitics | humanities | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | political geography | political prisoner | political situation | political unrest | POLITICS | politics and public safety | Russia | SCIENCE | Ukraine

Summary Initial protests on Kyiv's Independence Square (Maidan) were non-partisan, though supported by major opposition parties. Bolstered by students and young people, 'Euromaidan' demonstrations occurred in every major Ukrainian city. More than 100 000 protesters gathered for a 'March for European Ukraine' in Kyiv on the ninth anniversary of the country's 'Orange Revolution'. The Ukrainian authorities have remained recalcitrant, despite the increasingly pro-European stance of most Ukrainians. Ukraine had fulfilled most conditions for signing the Association Agreement. On what some media called 'Black Thursday', the government unexpectedly called off preparations for the agreement. While Yanukovich has said he is trying to protect 'vulnerable' Ukrainians, his Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister have spoken blamed both the EU and Russia. Pressure from Moscow underpins a number of Kyiv's political turns. EU leaders made reference to Russia and its pressure in an unusually strong statement issued on 25 November 2013. Yanukovich may well be thinking domestically: he faces re-election in 15 months. Pressure on the EU to loosen demands has been, ironically, released by the events of the last few days. The EU – and the European Parliament in particular – had worked hard to bring Ukraine on board, and 'disappointment' has been a common reaction to Kyiv's reversal. The EU should keep the door open for Ukraine – rejecting trilateral talks while possibly negotiating the applicability of the Association Agreement – and above support Ukrainian society.

Briefing [EN](#)

Migrant workers' conditions in Qatar: Prospects of change on the road to the 2022 World Cup

Publication type Briefing

Date 25-11-2013

Author LATEK Marta

Policy area Foreign Affairs | Human Rights

Keyword Asia and Oceania | economic geography | EMPLOYMENT AND WORKING CONDITIONS | FINANCE | financing and investment | foreign policy | GEOGRAPHY | international affairs | international convention | International Labour Organisation | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | investment policy | labour law | labour law and labour relations | labour market | LAW | migrant worker | organisation of work and working conditions | political geography | Qatar | rights and freedoms | slavery | social affairs | social framework | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | socioeconomic conditions | sporting event | United Nations | working conditions

Summary The decision of FIFA, world football's governing body, to hold the 2022 World Cup in Qatar, despite its climate constraints and the lack of a domestic football tradition, was a major victory in Qatar's long-term strategy aimed at enhancing the Emirate's international outreach, within a broader ambitious foreign policy. However the challenge of hosting the World Cup could trigger major social change, endangering the Qatari political system which has remained untouched by the Arab Spring. Indeed the absolute monarchy is sustained by a generous benefits system for the minority – Qatari citizens – while the majority – 94% of the, mostly migrant, workforce – suffers harsh working and living conditions.

Briefing [EN](#)

The United States-China relationship: Implications for the European Union

Publication type Briefing

Date 30-10-2013

Author CIRLIG Carmen-Cristina

Policy area Foreign Affairs

Keyword America | Asia and Oceania | China | common foreign and security policy | defence | defence policy | economic geography | economic independence | economic relations | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | foreign policy | GEOGRAPHY | human rights | international affairs | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | Japan | LAW | political geography | rights and freedoms | territorial dispute | the EU's international role | United States

Summary The rising economic, political and military influence of the People's Republic of China (PRC) at global level carries enormous geopolitical consequences for 21st century world politics. The United States (US), considered the dominant power in the international system, is still assessing to what extents China's rise constitutes an opportunity and a threat.

Briefing [EN](#)

Long-term strategic analysis for EU policy-making

Publication type At a Glance

Date 03-10-2013

Author D'ALFONSO Alessandro

Policy area Budget | EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law | EU Law: Legal System and Acts

Keyword demographic analysis | demography and population | deterioration of the environment | documentation | economic analysis | economic conditions | economic indicator | economic situation | ECONOMICS | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | ENVIRONMENT | environmental policy | evaluation of resources | foreign policy | global warming | information analysis | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | SOCIAL QUESTIONS

Summary In an intertwined and rapidly changing world, the identification and analysis of major medium- and long-term trends aims to help policy-makers deal with key challenges that the future is likely to bring. Four EU institutions are currently developing a common "European Strategy and Policy Analysis System".

At a Glance [EN](#)

Turkey-Armenia Relations

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 02-10-2013

External author Cengiz AKTAR (Hrant Dink Foundation, Istanbul, Turkey) and Richard GIRAGOSIAN (Regional Studies Center, Yerevan, Armenia)

Policy area Foreign Affairs

Keyword Armenia | Armenian question | Asia and Oceania | bilateral relations | civil society | democratisation | diplomatic relations | economic geography | Europe | executive power and public service | foreign policy | GEOGRAPHY | international affairs | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | Kurdistan question | political geography | political situation | POLITICS | politics and public safety | Türkiye

Summary The two protocols signed by the Armenian and Turkish foreign ministers in Zurich in October 2009 addressed the twin issues of establishing diplomatic relations and reopening the closed Armenian-Turkish border. They offered a strategic roadmap for each country to "normalise" relations as a first step toward the broader process of reconciliation. Since the signing of the protocols, however, the "normalisation" process has dramatically stalled, with official state-level engagement suspended. During this period, despite several new opportunities for reengagement or reactivity, each side has retreated to their previously hard-line positions. The two briefing papers drafted respectively by a Turkish and an Armenian analyst assess the past efforts and the current state of play of Turkey-Armenia relations, suggest possible future scenarios and present several specific recommendations for action.

In-Depth Analysis [EN](#)

The Role of Hezbollah in Post-Conflict Lebanon

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 16-07-2013

External author Florence Gaub (European Union Institute for Security Studies, France / Germany)

Policy area Democracy | Foreign Affairs

Keyword Asia and Oceania | culture and religion | economic geography | foreign policy | GEOGRAPHY | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | Lebanon | peacekeeping | political geography | political parties | political party | political situation | POLITICS | politics and public safety | religious fundamentalism | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | Syria | terrorism

Summary The Lebanese Hezbollah is a difficult organisation to grasp; it's several identities – be it as an Islamic movement, a political party, and armed resistance group or as a terrorist organisation – are nevertheless all intertwined at the Lebanese level. Born in a Lebanese context, operating from a Lebanese territorial point of view, Hezbollah has integrated the Lebanese political system and has built its existence on the liberation of Lebanon. That notwithstanding, its pan-Islamic outlook and its strong narrative have contributed to its reputation as a fundamentally globally acting jihadi organisation. Although Hezbollah has managed to establish itself as a constant feature on the Lebanese political scene, its weapons' arsenal are now questioned by other Lebanese, and its engagement in Syria fundamentally threaten Lebanese civil peace.

In-Depth Analysis [EN](#)

Handover of Power to a New Generation in Qatar

Publication type Briefing

Date 28-06-2013

Author HAKALA Pekka

Policy area Foreign Affairs

Keyword Asia and Oceania | cabinet reshuffle | culture and religion | domestic policy | economic geography | executive power and public service | extra-European organisations | foreign policy | GEOGRAPHY | government | Gulf Cooperation Council | head of State | international affairs | international affairs | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | Islam | monarchy | political framework | political geography | POLITICS | politics and public safety | Qatar | regional security | SOCIAL QUESTIONS

Summary Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa transformed his country into a bold and assertive presence on the world stage. He supported new Islamist forces in countries affected by the Arab Spring, but ensured continuity in the Gulf. The appointment of the new cabinet suggests a slightly more domestic orientation. The youthful ruler may coordinate more with regional partners, but will maintain an independent approach to international questions.

Briefing [EN](#)

Algeria's Underused Potential in Security Cooperation in the Sahel Region

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 24-06-2013

Author HAKALA Pekka | KAROCK Ulrich | MANRIQUE GIL Manuel

Policy area Foreign Affairs | Security and Defence

Keyword Africa | Algeria | armed forces | cooperation policy | defence | economic geography | foreign policy | GEOGRAPHY | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | Mali | military cooperation | political geography | POLITICS | politics and public safety | regional security | Sahel | terrorism

Summary Algeria is a regional power in both economic, political and military terms. Up to now, relations between the EU and Algeria have been mainly based on economic considerations. The crisis in Mali, the Franco-African military intervention (AFISMA) and the terrorist attacks at the gas facility In Amenas in eastern Algeria have opened a new window of opportunity for reinforced cooperation in the field of security between Algeria and the EU in order to combat common threats. Given its strong military power and political stature in the region, Algeria has the potential to develop into an important ally of the EU in the Sahel region. The probable transfer of presidential powers in Algeria will offer a chance for Algeria to reshape its policy in the region, as an assertive and constructive regional power not only in the Maghreb but also in West Africa.

In-Depth Analysis [EN](#), [FR](#)

High Expectations of the Moderate Cleric's Victory in Iran

Publication type Briefing

Date 14-06-2013

Author D'ANGELO Sandro

Policy area Democracy | Foreign Affairs

Keyword absolute majority | Asia and Oceania | candidate | domestic policy | economic conditions | economic conditions | economic geography | ECONOMICS | electoral procedure and voting | electoral system | electrical and nuclear industries | ENERGY | executive power and public service | foreign policy | GEOGRAPHY | international affairs | international affairs | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | Iran | Islamic State | nuclear policy | political framework | political geography | POLITICS | presidential election

Summary Centrist cleric Hassan Rowhani wins Iran's presidential election in a surprise landslide victory, securing 52 % of the votes. The Iranian presidential election took place at a time of unprecedented economic isolation. Rowhani's victory is due to an unprecedented upsurge of mobilisation a mere three days before the vote. President Rowhani will have little leeway in foreign policy matters, these powers belonging to the Supreme Leader, Ali Khamenei. Whether Rowhani will be willing to challenge the primacy of the clerical establishment remains to be seen. Voter turnout rose to 72 %. Out of the 51 million registered voters, 37.5 million came to the ballot box, with young voters accounting for one third. Haunted by the 2009 chaos, this election's voter turnout was instrumental in consolidating the foundations of the Islamic Republic. Ayatollah Khamenei played an instrumental role in the election, exercising great influence over the Guardian Council's vetting process. The Guardian Council disqualified reformist movement candidates. Esfandiar Rahim Mashaei, Ahmadinejad's heir, was also barred from running. The disqualification of Rafsanjani and Mashaei was a strong indicator of the clerical establishment's intent to micromanage the election. Recurrent allegations of rigged elections and fraud were further exacerbated by Khamenei's attempt to engineer the election. While the massive participation by Iranians and the choice of president are a reflection of a participatory electoral process, it is primarily a victory for the Supreme Leader. Khamenei successfully used the elections to legitimise the foundations of the Islamic Republic and redeem the situation after the massive protests of 2009. The electoral outcome will have little impact on Iran's regional policies, particularly as regards Syria, or on the nuclear issue. The election will, on the other hand, determine the fate of Iranians over the next four years. For Iranians, the election represented an opportunity

Briefing [EN](#)

Turkey's regional power aspirations

Publication type Briefing

Date 06-05-2013

Author CIRLIG Carmen-Cristina

Policy area Foreign Affairs | Security and Defence

Keyword Asia and Oceania | economic geography | Europe | foreign policy | GEOGRAPHY | international conflict | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | Iran | Middle East | political geography | political situation | POLITICS | politics and public safety | regional security | Syria | Türkiye

Summary The rise to power of the Justice and Development Party (Adalet ve Kalkınma Partisi, AKP) in 2002 has prompted the emergence of a new Turkish foreign policy doctrine. Its principles emphasise a policy of "zero problems with neighbours", proactive diplomacy, as well as a more autonomous foreign policy.

Briefing [EN](#)

To Each their Own: The Southern Caucasus and Iranian Influence

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 05-03-2013

Author GARCES DE LOS FAYOS TOURNAN Fernando

Policy area Energy | Foreign Affairs | International Trade

Keyword Asia and Oceania | bilateral relations | Caucasus countries | cooperation policy | economic geography | ENERGY | energy cooperation | energy policy | energy supply | Europe | European construction | European neighbourhood policy | EUROPEAN UNION | foreign policy | GEOGRAPHY | international affairs | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international sanctions | international security | international trade | Iran | organisation of transport | pipeline transport | political geography | TRADE | trade relations | TRANSPORT

Summary The Southern Caucasus region matters to the European Union for economic, energy and political reasons. Yet the states of the Southern Caucasus — Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia — are also important to their southern neighbour, Iran. Realpolitik in the region dictates that the EU balance its relations with its local partners at the same time that Iran, sanctioned by the EU and others, makes various economic, cultural, and political inroads with its pliable neighbours. Each Southern Caucasus state has a distinct relation with the EU and with Iran. Each must set the realities of its current situation against its western aspirations. Since the adoption of sanctions against Iran in 2010 and their subsequent reinforcement, the EU has also been obliged to consider Iran's influence on regional politics. While the EU's interest in the region is based on more than its concerns about Iran, this facet of the Southern Caucasus's complicated balance of power cannot be ignored.

In-Depth Analysis [EN](#)

[EU-Norway cooperation in the area of foreign policy and defence](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 21-02-2013

Author LATEK Marta

Policy area Foreign Affairs | Security and Defence

Keyword Arctic | bilateral relations | common foreign and security policy | cooperation policy | defence | defence policy | economic geography | energy cooperation | ENVIRONMENT | Europe | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | foreign policy | GEOGRAPHY | international affairs | international law | international organisation | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | LAW | military cooperation | national sovereignty | natural environment | Norway | political geography | Russia

Summary The paradox of Norway's "Inside, outside" approach towards the EU is particularly apparent in the areas of foreign policy and defence. Increasingly aware of its limited influence on EU policy formulation, Norway has adopted a proactive and participative approach to avoid marginalisation. Norway's foreign policy is aligned with the majority of EU foreign policy declaration and sanctions.

Briefing [EN](#)

[After a Landslide Victory, Japan's LDP Returns to Power](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 18-12-2012

Author D'ANGELO Sandro | LUO Yan

Policy area Democracy | Foreign Affairs | Global Governance

Keyword Asia and Oceania | economic conditions | economic geography | economic stagnation | ECONOMICS | election campaign | election result | electoral procedure and voting | electrical and nuclear industries | ENERGY | foreign policy | GEOGRAPHY | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | Japan | nuclear energy | political parties | political party | political situation | POLITICS | politics and public safety

Summary The Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) is returning to power after three years. The results signal a sharp rejection of the Democratic Party of Japan (DPJ), which has governed only since 2009. These were the first general elections held since Japan's 2011 'triple disaster'. After 54 years of almost unbroken rule, Japan's LDP government was ousted in 2009. Successive DPJ governments were unable to keep their campaign promises. Frequently shifting governments have not overcome Japan's prolonged political and economic problems. Although 12 parties campaigned, the real competition was between the LDP, the DPJ and the JRP, with a few additional parties playing a minor role. Small parties could play a role in the coalition government. The stagnant economy, nuclear power and regional relations were the most pressing campaign issues. How to boost the economic growth while controlling the public debt and maintaining public support will be a challenge for any government. Giving up nuclear energy will be costly for Japanese national economy, although this is the preference of most Japanese citizens. Territorial disputes must be treated gently so as not to disrupt Japan's international trade. Reviving the economy will be Shinzo Abe's priority. International relations are likely to shift, with Abe seeking to avoid antagonising China. Relations with other Asian nations are also likely to develop.

Briefing [EN](#)

[China's New Leadership](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 04-12-2012

Author LUO Yan | NUTTIN Xavier

Policy area Foreign Affairs

Keyword Asia and Oceania | China | Communist Party | economic geography | economic policy | ECONOMICS | foreign policy | GEOGRAPHY | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | political party | political reform | political situation | POLITICS | politics and public safety | sustainable development

Summary China has made considerable efforts to lift people out of poverty. Unbalanced and unsustainable development, social problems and corruption remain, however, serious challenges. The two main factions, 'Tuanpai' and the 'Shanghai group', are jostling for key positions. The new Communist Party Secretary-General, and future President, Mr.Xi Jinping, is a princeling whose political beliefs remain largely unknown. The second-in-line and future Prime Minister, Mr. Li Keqiang, is from the Tuanpai faction. Three leading contenders, all reformers, did not make the cut. The balance of power between conservatives and reformers remain unclear. The new leaders will have to carry out economic and social reforms. The once-in-a-decade leadership reshuffle is unlikely to open the door for political reforms. Beijing's increasingly assertive foreign and security policy will continue. Major personnel changes will take place again in 2007.

Briefing [EN](#)

[Egypt - A Strategic Partner for the EU](#)

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 22-11-2012

Author DE MICCO Pasquale | GHANMI Elyes | HAKALA Pekka

Policy area Democracy | Foreign Affairs | Gender Issues, Equality and Diversity | Human Rights

Keyword Africa | democracy | democratisation | economic conditions | economic geography | economic situation | ECONOMICS | Egypt | EU relations | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | executive power and public service | foreign policy | freedom of association | freedom of the press | GEOGRAPHY | human rights | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | LAW | political framework | political geography | POLITICS | rights and freedoms | women's rights

Summary In the most populous Arab nation, Egypt's newly elected officials are working to recapture their country's old role of regional leader, tarnished under the previous regime. The country's political and economic potential is still constrained by the complexity of its transition from authoritarian rule to democracy. After decades of government largely influenced by the military, a new era of political leaders are seeking their political direction. These politicians— for the most part Islamists — enjoy a clear mandate, garnered in a series of free and fair elections. It is essential that the political transition process continue, and that new democratic institutions be established. Egypt's fledgling democracy must be consolidated in a new constitution, also approved by the Egyptian people. Fundamental human rights and the equality of all citizens must be guaranteed, and economic growth jump-started. The EU is Egypt's first trading partner, and the EU would benefit from a greater political alliance with Egypt. Egypt's success in mediating a cease-fire between Hamas and Israel has underscored its role as a principal power in a region profoundly altered by the Arab Awakening. Egypt is a strategic partner for the European Union, and the Union should assume a more palpable presence in the country, deepen its political dialogue and support Egypt's democratic transition and socio-economic development.

[In-Depth Analysis](#) [EN](#)

[Key Aspects of Russia's Current Foreign and Security Policy](#)

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 03-10-2012

Author CRAMPES Julien | HAKALA Pekka

Policy area Foreign Affairs | Security and Defence

Keyword Asia and Oceania | common security and defence policy | criminal law | culture and religion | economic geography | Europe | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | foreign policy | GEOGRAPHY | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | international security | Iran | LAW | NATO | political geography | religious fundamentalism | Russia | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | Syria | threat to national security | world organisations

Summary On the first day of his reclaimed presidency, Vladimir Putin cancelled his participation in the G8 summit on May 18-19 at Camp David and his planned meeting with US President Barack Obama. Within a few days, Putin issued a presidential decree outlining new measures for the Russian Federation¹. The press and the international community immediately interpreted Putin's actions as signalling a change of tack in Russia's foreign policy. But is Russia's foreign policy really shifting? And should EU policy makers re-evaluate their position and strategy regarding Russia? This briefing will provide an overview of Russia's current foreign policy. A number of recent documents produced by Russian lawmakers — including the 'Foreign Policy Concept' (2008), the 'National Security Strategy of the Russian Federation to 2020' (2009), the 'Military Doctrine until 2020' (2009) and the new presidential decrees — provide a basis for analysis. Significant projects, conflicts and partners will also be explored in the paper. By focusing on the guiding principles of Russia's current foreign policy, placing an emphasis on security issues, and on topics germane to the EU-Russian agenda, this briefing aims to assist stakeholders in the EU and the European Parliament to survey the apparently shifting ground in Moscow.

[In-Depth Analysis](#) [EN](#)

[The Political and Social Developments in Russia in 2012 as a Consequence of its New Role on the Global Stage](#)

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 02-05-2012

External author Philip Hanson (Chatham House) and Fraser Cameron (EU-Russia Centre)

Policy area Democracy | Economics and Monetary Issues | Foreign Affairs | Intellectual Property Law | Social Policy

Keyword democracy | economic geography | Europe | foreign policy | GEOGRAPHY | intellectual property | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | international trade | organised crime | political framework | political geography | political situation | POLITICS | politics and public safety | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | research and intellectual property | rule of law | Russia | social affairs | social development | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | TRADE | trade relations | world organisations | World Trade Organisation

Summary After 18 years of negotiations, Russia is in the process of joining the WTO and is seeking membership of the OECD. On 1 July 2012 it will take over the chairmanship of the G20 for a year. Russian policies, institutional developments and government and corporate conduct will continue to be influenced mainly by domestic events. Of all external influences, the world oil price will remain the most significant. There is unlikely to be much change in Russian foreign policy. Russia has made the Customs Union (CU) with Kazakhstan and Belarus a political priority. As regards a possible free trade area (FTA) between the EU and Russia, most EU officials doubt this could be a serious agenda item for the foreseeable future. Accession to the WTO should assist, at the margin, in promoting transparency and openness to foreign investment, and hence competition in the Russian economy. The direct, medium-term consequences of WTO accession on the Russian economy, and therefore on employment, Russian households and the regions are likely to be modest.

[In-Depth Analysis](#) [EN](#)

[Towards a More Comprehensive, Strategic and Costeffective EU Foreign Policy : The Role of National Parliaments and the European Parliament](#)

Publication type Study

Date 15-03-2012

External author Julie SMITH (Robinson College, Cambridge, UK), Ariella HUFF (Department of Politics and International Studies, Cambridge University, UK) and Geoffrey EDWARDS (Pembroke College, Cambridge, UK) with additional assistance from Katrin BUCHMANN and Salvatore FINAMORE

Policy area Budget | Budgetary Control | EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law | Foreign Affairs

Keyword budget | budgetary power | common foreign and security policy | cooperation policy | development aid | economic geography | EU institutions and European civil service | EU Member State | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | foreign policy | GEOGRAPHY | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | national parliament | parliament | parliamentary scrutiny | POLITICS | powers of the EP

Summary This study explores the powers of the EP and six selected national parliaments (the British, Danish, French, Irish, Italian and Polish) in setting, amending and scrutinising budgets. It then considers European engagement in three conflict regions – Libya, Palestine and Afghanistan – assessing how the selected parliaments have overseen various aspects of foreign policy, including finance for core activities and responses to sudden crises, and considers whether there are possible synergies between national and European budgets in foreign policy broadly defined.

Study [EN](#)

[Human Rights Benchmarks for EU's External Policy](#)

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 14-12-2011

External author Anja MIHR (Netherlands Institute of Human Rights - SIM, Utrecht University, the Netherlands)

Policy area Foreign Affairs | Human Rights

Keyword benchmarking | common foreign and security policy | European construction | European neighbourhood policy | EUROPEAN UNION | foreign policy | human rights | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | LAW | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | qualitative analysis | quantitative analysis | research and intellectual property | rights and freedoms | technology and technical regulations | the EU's international role

Summary Human rights benchmarks are points of references against which the EU's external policy can be measured by means of regular, timely and systematically applied human rights indicators. Quantitative and qualitative indicators can identify benchmarks for EU's policy vis-à-vis third countries as well as internally. The briefing paper is a technical summary how to develop indicators and benchmarks and consequently apply them to the needs of EU policy mechanisms. It is recommended to develop human rights benchmarks in-house within the EU and apply them consistently over a period of years through all external policy measures.

In-Depth Analysis [EN](#)

[Implementing the EU Concept on Mediation : Learning from the Cases of Sudan and the Great Lakes](#)

Publication type Study

Date 13-06-2011

External author Roger MIDDLETON (Royal Institute of International Affairs, London, UK), Paul MELLY (Royal Institute of International Affairs, London, UK) and Alex VINES (Royal Institute of International Affairs, London, UK)

Policy area Development and Humanitarian Aid | Foreign Affairs

Keyword Africa | Burundi | common foreign and security policy | cooperation policy | Democratic Republic of the Congo | economic aid | economic geography | EU institutions and European civil service | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | foreign policy | GEOGRAPHY | international affairs | international organisation | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | non-governmental organisation | non-governmental organisations | operation of the Institutions | political geography | Rwanda | settlement of disputes | Sudan | the EU's international role

Summary This report concludes that the European Union can play an important role in mediation efforts to prevent or end conflict, but that to do so most effectively it needs to become more coherent and flexible in its approach. As a pre-requisite, the EU needs to develop a broader awareness of the motivations and strengths it brings to mediation efforts. Preventing or ending conflict through mediation is a concern for the EU and an area where the Union believes that it can play a useful role. In 2009 the EU adopted the 'EU Concept on Mediation and Dialogue Capacities'. However, despite worthwhile aspirations, this has yet to be fully integrated into EU structures and systems and is not widely known. This report assesses the Concept and the role that the EU has played in mediation, and related efforts to resolve crises and consolidate peace and stability, through a detailed analysis of two case studies -- Sudan and the Great Lakes region of Africa. Our research found that at times the EU is well placed to take a leading role in mediation. This was true in the Great Lakes, where the Union has a history of serious engagement and influence. But in Sudan the EU has not been well positioned to be a lead mediator, although it has played a useful role in supporting, and sometimes financing, the efforts of others. The report suggests that a number of institutional reforms could improve the effectiveness of the EU with regards to mediation. At a time of financial austerity in particular, when member states are constrained in the resources they can commit to mediation efforts, the EU has the opportunity to demonstrate real value as a force multiplier, rather than a duplicator to or distraction from the efforts of member states and others. The effectiveness of the EU as a mediator is intimately tied up with its effectiveness as a foreign policy actor. Well thought out and effective support to mediation efforts will play an important role in defining the EU's developing external reputat

Study [EN](#)

Classified Information in light of the Lisbon Treaty

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 14-05-2010

External author Henri Labayle, Professeur à l'Université de Pau et des pays de l'Adour

Policy area Area of Freedom, Security and Justice | EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Keyword access to information | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | foreign policy | fundamental rights | information and information processing | interinstitutional relations | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | justice | LAW | legal aid | POLITICS | politics and public safety | rights and freedoms | Treaty of Lisbon

Summary The revision of Regulation No 1049/2001 regarding public access to documents coincides with the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty. It highlights the lack of general regulation of the classification of "sensitive" documents in the EU and the absence of transparency in that field. The needs of democratic governance call for a modification of this situation, in order to effectively protect citizens' rights of access to documents and to ensure a normal exercise of the Parliament's prerogatives.

In-Depth Analysis [EN](#), [FR](#)

Consolidating Civilian and Military Training for Crisis Management : Taking Stock of EU Initiatives

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 13-04-2010

External author Julia LIEB (German Institute for International and Security Affairs, Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik, SWP)

Policy area Foreign Affairs | Security and Defence

Keyword CEPOL | civil defence | civilian personnel | common security and defence policy | defence | EU institutions and European civil service | EU relations | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | foreign policy | High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | military training | POLITICS | politics and public safety

Summary The implementation of the Treaty of Lisbon – including the new post of the High Representative of the Union for Foreign and Security Policy and the creation of the European External Action Service (EEAS) – provides an opportunity for more effective action at the international level and for meeting the foreign policy objectives fixed in Article 21 of the Treaty. Training measures should be included in the current reform efforts for several good reasons: training builds the knowledge, experience and understanding of those involved in external relations at different levels; it creates the networks for the day-to-day tasks; it establishes working relations between national training institutes and EU institutions; it provides synergies and economies of scale within the EU; it might, in the long-run contribute to the development of a common strategic culture of the Union as envisioned in the European Security Strategy. This standard briefing focuses on the aspect of civil and military training for crisis management. It mainly analyses and evaluates two training initiatives: the European Group on Training (EGT) and the European Security and Defence College (ESDC). The author has been asked by the European Parliament (EP) to 'take stock on these two parallel initiatives' and to 'put forward options for improving coordination and gradual integration'. The structure of the paper reflects this two-step-approach. The analysis has been conducted on the basis of documents, expert interviews and related literature.

In-Depth Analysis [EN](#)

Establishing the Knowledge Base of a Smart Power : a Blue Print for an EU Institute for Peace

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 12-02-2010

External author Gunilla HEROLF (SIPRI)

Policy area Education | EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law | Foreign Affairs | Research Policy

Keyword common security and defence policy | education | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | education policy | EU institutions and European civil service | EU office or agency | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | foreign policy | High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | peace | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | research and intellectual property | scientific research

Summary The purpose of this report is to present a view on whether there is an added value in establishing an "EU Institute for Peace", and, if so, to make a suggestion on how it can be organized. The background is the fact that as the Lisbon Treaty has now come into force the Union should be capable to carry out the role of a global actor in the pursuit of peace as set up by the Treaty. The world as it looks today with the challenges and threats described in the European Security Strategy has given the Union a vast and complex task in its ambitions to create security and work for peace also on a global level. The challenge for the Union at this stage is to acquire the capabilities needed in analysis, knowledge and training based on a common strategic vision to pursue this. Suggestions for an EU Institute for Peace have been made by former Finnish President, Martti Ahtisaari, and Swedish Minister for Foreign Affairs, Carl Bildt, referring to the need to fulfill EU's goals in a better way. It seems clear already at this stage that the EU is in need of strengthened capabilities and the purpose of this standard briefing is to suggest a structure for this in the form of an EU institute for peace.

In-Depth Analysis [EN](#)

Eea Plus? possible Institutional Arrangements for the European Part of the European Neighbourhood Policy (enp)

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 08-04-2007

External author Dr. Fraser Cameron, Director of Studies,
European Policy Centre, Brussels

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues | Foreign Affairs

Keyword Central and Eastern Europe | cooperation agreement (EU) | cooperation policy | Eastern Bloc countries | economic conditions | economic cooperation | economic development | ECONOMICS | enlargement of the Union | Europe | European construction | European Economic Area | European neighbourhood policy | EUROPEAN UNION | foreign policy | GEOGRAPHY | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | political geography

Summary This policy paper is one of a series of four such papers requested by the EP's Committee on Foreign Affairs in connection with the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP). It examines possible institutional arrangements for the European part of the ENP, with a specific focus on the idea of a European Economic Area (EEA) plus arrangement.

In-Depth Analysis [EN](#)

Towards a Genuine Multilateralism in External Relations between the European union and Latin America

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 05-02-2006

External author Dr. José Antonio SANAHUJA
c/Laguna Negra 13, portal i, 5º A
28030 Madrid, Spanien

Policy area Foreign Affairs

Keyword America | cooperation policy | economic cooperation | EU relations | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | foreign policy | GEOGRAPHY | international affairs | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | Latin America | multilateral relations | regional cooperation

Summary This document examines the steps that need to be taken to achieve an effective, shared multilateral approach in relations between the European Union and Latin America. It proposes specific options for issues surrounding regional integration and sub-regional leadership, as well as the new strategy for supporting integration, with the aim of establishing effective multilateralism.

In-Depth Analysis [DE](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FR](#), [IT](#), [PT](#)

Human Rights and Democracy Clauses in the EU's International Agreements

Publication type Study

Date 29-09-2005

External author Lorand Bartels (University of Edinburgh, School of Law)

Policy area Democracy | EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law | Foreign Affairs | Human Rights

Keyword cooperation policy | democracy | democratisation | executive power and public service | foreign policy | human rights | international affairs | international agreement | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | LAW | political framework | POLITICS | rights and freedoms | third country

Summary This study examines the evolution and current status of the EU's policy of including human rights and democracy clauses in its international agreements. Based on a close reading of their texts, this study describes the range of ways in which the implementation of these clauses might be improved. In this regard, the emphasis is on the potential use of these clauses within the institutional framework established by the international agreements in which they are contained.

Study [EN](#)

Executive summary [FR](#), [IT](#)