Monitored Policy Areas:

1. Security and Foreign Policy

- **News**

According to the German defence minister, Ursula von der Leyen, Brexit and Trump's victory ought to speed up the process for **EU defence integration**. She also predicted the US would initially turn inward to heal the division brought by the campaign, leaving Germany and the EU to be "*more self-reliant on security issues*". The creation of an EU defence integration could help Europe achieve this very objective. Speaking the same day in Brussels, Federica Mogherini, the EU foreign policy chief and a former Italian diplomat, echoed the German minister (11/11).
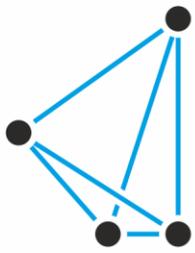
Germany and France call for Trump to respect "shared values", amongst which: "*democracy, freedom, respect for the right and dignity of every individual, irrespective of origin, colour, religion, sex, sexual orientation or political attitude*", although many experts say that EU leaders should be careful "*not to alienate Trump*". Amongst EU populist leaders who cheered Trump on Wednesday, was **Poland's right wing, populist government**, who expressed confidence that Trump would send troops to Poland as part of Nato's Russia-deterrent force, although President Putin was photographed Wednesday morning toasting with Russian diplomats (10/11).

The **Hungarian Prime Minister**, Viktor Orban, suffered a setback in his plans to pass constitutional amendments that would aim at keeping migrants out of the Country after he failed to achieve the two-thirds majority in Parliament on Tuesday, 8/11.

On Sunday, 13/11, the President of the European Commission (EC) Jean Claude Juncker gave a speech for the first **anniversary of the Paris attacks**, recalling not only the Paris victims, but also those of the terrorist attacks in Brussels and Nice. President Juncker also called all the people to stand united to preserve and defend EU values.

The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) Representative on Freedom of the media, Dunja Mijatović, urged the members of Parliament of the **Czech Republic** to abolish an amendment making defamation of the country's president a criminal offence (16/11). The bill is currently sponsored by 64 out of the 200 members of the lower house and, if passed, would make publicly defaming the president or hindering the execution of his powers (thus denigrating his reputation) punishable with up to one year in prison. The latter, Ms. Mijatović stated, would pose a threat to the freedom of expression and media freedom in the country.

The OSCE organized **a three-day seminar in Warsaw on ensuring the independence and quality of judiciaries** in the OSCE area, which is vital for

democratic societies (21/11). The latter brought together more than 100 representatives of governments, international organizations and civil society and is organized by the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), in co-operation with the German Chairmanship of the OSCE.

The **Polish foreign minister**, Witold Waszczykowski, visited The Institute of International and European Affairs, a think tank in the Irish capital, where he warned that **Russia could try to build a "new empire" in Europe by military "aggression"** in a threat also to "lucky" EU states who are not on the front line, such as Ireland (25/11). The foreign minister also commented on the **Brexit** negotiations, to start at the end of March, where he stated that for Poland "*freedom of movement of people is very much important*".
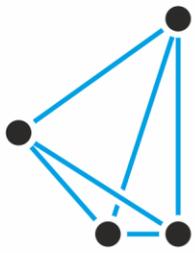
Links:
- o [Germany: Trump victory to spur EU military Union](#)
- o [Merkel urges Trump to respect values](#)
- o [Hungarian MPs sink Orban's anti-migrant plan](#)
- o [Statement by President Juncker on the first anniversary of the attacks in Paris on 13 November 2015](#)
- o [OSCE Representative urges Czech Parliament to abolish amendment criminalizing defamation of president](#)
- o [Ensuring independence and quality of judiciaries vital for democratic societies say participants at the OSCE/ODIHR meeting in Warsaw](#)
- o [Poland: Russia seeks 'new empire' in Europe](#)

• Legislative Developments

The European Parliament (EP) has adopted a text on the **Recent developments in Poland** and their impact on fundamental rights, expressing its regret and concern that so far no compromise solution has been found and that the Venice Commission's recommendations have not been implemented by the Polish Government (14/11). The text also calls on the Polish Government to cooperate with the EC and urges it to use the three months afforded by the latter to engage all Polish represented parties to find a compromise which would solve the ongoing constitutional crisis, fully respecting the Venice Commission opinion and the EC recommendation.

The EU and Lebanon adopted the **partnership priorities for the coming four years, as well as a compact** (15/11). The main objective is to improve the living conditions both of temporary refugees and of vulnerable host communities. The priorities of the partnership are: security and countering terrorism, governance and the rule of law, fostering growth and job opportunities, and migration and mobility. The compact foresees an EU allocation of a minimum of € 400 million in 2016-2017, in addition to the bilateral assistance of more than €80 million for those two years.

The EC has referred **Poland to the Court of Justice of the EU** on the system of permits for the use of the roads by certain trucks (17/11). In particular, on Poland's incorrect implementation of [Council Directive 96/53/EC](#) on maximum weights and

dimensions of certain road vehicles. In fact, Poland restricts the freedom of use of its road networks to certain trucks, even though they comply with EU standards.
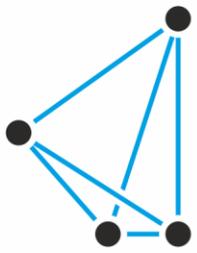
The EC requests nine member States, including **Hungary**, to remove excessive and unjustified obstacles to cross-border activities (17/11). The EC considers, in fact, that the requirements of these member States run counter to the Services Directive (Directive 2006/123/EC). In particular, the EC is addressing its concern about Hungary's provision to granting exclusive right to a single operator to provide a service.

The EP has adopted the report brought by MEP Urmas Paet of the Estonian Reform Party on the **European Defence Union,** which states that the latter should be "*NATO-compatible, complementary and mutually reinforcing*" (22/11). The Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe (ALDE) Group fully supported said report, not only in the voting, but also in a Press Release following the adoption. The report also suggests devoting 2% of GDP to defence, establishing multinational forces and EU headquarters to plan and command crisis management operations, and enabling the EU to act where NATO is unwilling to do so.

The EP has adopted a **resolution to freeze ongoing accession negotiations with Turkey** (24/11). The ALDE Group leader, Guy Verhofstadt, said the measures must be implemented as soon as possible, while the Socialists and Democrats (S&D) Group specified that the resolution should not be misinterpreted: "*we want Turkey to be anchored to Europe, to democracy and to rule of law. We take our values seriously and therefore we cannot continue as if nothing happened in Turkey*". Turkey reacted angrily to the resolution, with Erdogan repeatedly stating that he will tear up a migration pact between Turkey and the EU if Europe fails to deliver on accession talks or visa-free travel.

Links:
- o http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?type=TA&reference=P8-TA-2016-0344&format=XML&language=EN
- o EU and Lebanon adopt partnership priorities and compact
- o http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-16-3649_en.htm
- o http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-16-3646_en.htm
- o http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//TEXT+TA+P8-TA-2016-0435+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN&language=EN
- o http://www.alde.eu/nc/press/press-and-release-news/press-release/article/the-european-parliament-approves-paet-report-on-european-defence-union-48275/
- o http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/news-room/20161117IPR51547/defence-meps-push-for-more-eu-cooperation-to-better-protect-europe
- o http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?type=TA&reference=P8-TA-2016-0450&format=XML&language=EN
- o http://www.alde.eu/nc/press/press-and-release-news/press-release/article/ep-follows-aldes-call-to-freeze-accession-negotiations-with-turkey-48295/
- o http://www.socialistsanddemocrats.eu/newsroom/lack-democracy-and-rule-law-have-frozen-eu-turkey-accession-process
- o https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/nov/24/eu-parliament-votes-freeze-membership-talks-turkey

- **Publications**

  The Bruegel think tank has published an article summarizing all the different opinions regarding **Brexit after the UK High Court ruling** that the triggering of Article 50 of the EU Treaty should involve the UK Parliament (14/11).

  The NATO Review magazine has published a study made by the Australian civil-military think tank Info Ops HQ on **Daesh's use of communication strategies** to win people over to their cause (16/11).

  The EU Institute for Security Studies (ISS) has published a paper on the ideas put forward so far to turning the **EU's vision on security and defence into action** (18/11).

  Links:
  - o Brexit and the law
  - o Content Wars: Daesh's sophisticated use of communications
  - o EU defence research in development

- **Events coming up:**

  Monday, 28/11: next meeting of the Security and Defence Committee;
  - o http://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/en/sede/home.html
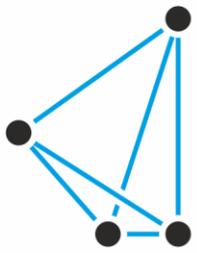
2. Economic Issues

- **Legislative Developments**

  The European Parliament (EP), European Commission (EC) and European Council have reached an agreement on the **EU money market funds regulation** (16/11). The agreement came after 3 years of negotiations following the initial proposal submitted by the EC.

  The EC has found **Poland's plans to provide PLN 7.95 billion** to support the social and environmental impact of closing uncompetitive coal mines by 2018 to be in line with EU state aid rules, as it would not unduly distort competition (18/11).

  The EP has rejected the **referral of CETA to the European Court of Justice** of the Investment Court System (ICS) and its compatibility with EU law (23/11). The ALDE Group fully supports the decision of the EP, saying that further delay of the ratification of said agreement "*will undermine the EU's credibility and ability to negotiate trade agreements*".
  Links:

- o   [Money Market Funds: breakthrough agreement between MEPs and Slovak Presidency](#)
- o   http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-16-3824_en.htm
- o   [http://www.alde.eu/nc/press/press-and-release-news/press-release/article/ceta-no-need-to-further-delay-the-ratification-of-the-agreement-48287/](#)

- **Publications**

  The Bruegel Think tank has published a blog post on the effects of Trump's Economic policy on **EU-China Relations**: in particular, the article states that with the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) and the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) both looking unlikely to ever be accomplished, the EU should move fast in building its relationship with China and the Association of Southeastern Asian Nations (ASEAN) (15/11).

  The same think tank has also published an article on the **NATO's spending target** (15/11). The article shows that the financial obligations that are entailed in NATO membership aren't being met by the majority of the Member States. In fact, only five countries out of the 28 NATO members were above the 2% target in 2015: Estonia, Greece, Poland, the United Kingdom and the United States. The article further states that reaching the target could cost the EU27 NATO members 96 billion USD per year.

  Links:
  - o   [Trump could give new impetus to EU-China relations](#)
  - o   [Trump, NATO and European Defence spending](#)

- **Events coming up:**

  Monday, 28/11 and Tuesday, 29/11: next meeting of the Budgetary Control Committee;
  - o   http://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/en/cont/home.html
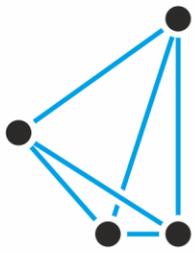
  Monday, 5/12: meeting of the Budgetary Control Committee;
  - o   http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?type=COMPARL&reference=CONT-OJ-20161205-1&format=XML&language=EN&secondRef=01

3. Energy Issues

- **News**

  The **COP22 in Marrakesh** ended on Friday, 18/11. The European Parliament (EP) had a delegation at the conference composed by 12 MEPs headed by Giovanni La Via, an Italian member of the EPP group. In an interview, the latter stressed the importance that the EU "*deliver on its commitments*" in spite of the many uncertainties it is facing. The EU's role and position as regards to the Paris Agreement was also confirmed by the Commissioner for Climate Action and Energy Miguel Arias Cañete, who said the

EU "*will stand by Paris,* [*we*] *will defend Paris, and* [*we*] *will implement Paris*". The Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe (ALDE) Group commented by saying that the conference has reconfirmed that global economic decarbonisation is irreversible, regardless of President Trump's climate policies. However, the EU's responsibility in making the Paris Agreement into a success has grown, as the new US administration could slow down the global transformation (18/11).

Links:
- COP22 in Marrakesh: "EU will deliver on commitments whatever happens"
- Marrakech climate conference: world forging ahead on climate action
- COP22 Marrakech: global decarbonisation trend remains irreversible but requires faster pace

- **Publications**

The European Parliament (EP) think tank published a set of articles on the **COP22 climate conference** happening these days in Marrakesh. The latter describe and analyse the events and evolutions from the Paris Agreement of 2015 to the current Marrakesh Conference (15/11). Moreover, the same think tank has published a study on the outcomes of the same conference, which mainly focused on the implementation of the Paris Agreement (23/11).

Links:
- Combating climate change: from Paris to Marrakesh
- Outcomes of COP 22 climate change conference

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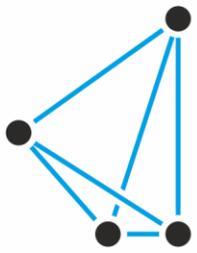4. **Digital Agenda**

- **News**

Over 90 European publishers, brought together by 26 European national Interactive Advertising Bureaus (IABs), IAB Europe and leading European publisher associations EPC (European Publishers Council), NME (News Media Europe), EMMA (European Magazine Media Association) and ENPA (European Newspaper Publishers' Association), co-signed a letter calling on the Juncker Commission to ensure that future **"ePrivacy" rules** do not deprive them of a revenue stream as they manage the transition to digital (23/11). In particular, the publishers are concerned that the new 'Cookie Directive' would include rules that would force them to provide content for free.

Links:
- European publishers urge European Commission to recognise importance of digital advertising in review of the ePrivacy Directive

- **Legislative developments**

  The European Commission (EC) has published the **summary report on the public consultations** held between 09/06/2016 and 15/09/2016 on the safety of apps and other non-embedded software (14/11). A full synopsis report will be published on the website page in due course, as the EC is currently analysing the replies to the consultation. The results so far do not point to the need for the EC to propose a new initiative, although it will be taken into consideration by the EC regarding the regulatory frameworks on medical devices, product safety, and liability.

  Links:
  - o https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/news/summary-report-public-consultation-safety-apps-and-other-non-embedded-software

- **Publications**

  The European Parliament think tank has published a briefing on the **role of the European Council in delivery of single market strategies** (22/11). The briefing focuses on the call from the European Council of the delivery of the different single market strategies and adopted an agenda of measures calling for rapid action in the areas of the digital single market, single market strategy and a Capital Markets Union. The aim is to promote digitalisation and reduce barriers to cross-border activities.

  Links:
  - o role of the European Council in delivery of single market strategies