

Rahvusvaheliste mõttekodade teemad
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ARENGUSEIRE KESKUS

International Monetary Fund (IMF)

[A Crisis Like No Other, An Uncertain Recovery](#)

Global growth is projected at –4.9 percent in 2020, 1.9 percentage points below the April 2020 World Economic Outlook (WEO) forecast. The COVID-19 pandemic has had a more negative impact on activity in the first half of 2020 than anticipated, and the recovery is projected to be more gradual than previously forecast. In 2021 global growth is projected at 5.4 percent. Overall, this would leave 2021 GDP some 6½ percentage points lower than in the pre-COVID-19 projections of January 2020. The adverse impact on low-income households is particularly acute, imperiling the significant progress made in reducing extreme poverty in the world since the 1990s.

Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

[Digital business diagnostic tools for SMEs and entrepreneurship - A review of international policy experiences](#)

This report examines international policy experiences in designing and implementing online business diagnostic tools for SME and entrepreneurship development. These tools offer entrepreneurs and small business managers an individual online assessment of the strengths and weaknesses of their business across a range of business operation areas. Using these tools they can access online advice and guidance related to their areas for improvement and find sources of further help in the business support system. The report examines the rationale and success factors for public policy in this area and describes the different types of tools in operation. It includes twelve case studies of online business diagnostic tools in OECD countries and how they are supported by public policy. It proposes a number of lessons for policy makers considering developing digital business diagnostic tools.

[The Impact of COVID-19 international travel restrictions on services-trade costs](#)

This report casts light on the impact of regulatory restrictions on the movement of people across international borders on services trade costs. Such restrictions were implemented on health and safety grounds following the COVID-19 outbreak in March 2020. The analysis relies on several illustrative scenarios in which all the countries are assumed to close their borders to passengers, but leave freight trade open. Services trade costs are estimated to increase by an average of 12% of export values across sectors and countries in the medium term in such a hypothetical scenario. The analysis identifies a large variability in the increase in services-trade costs across sectors and across countries, reflecting the stringency of initial regulations and the relative importance of business travel and labour mobility to international services trade.

[Improving resource efficiency and the circularity of economies for a greener world](#)

Global demand for materials has been growing over the past century, driven by a steady economic growth in OECD countries, the industrialisation of emerging economies and a growing world

population. At the global level, materials use more than doubled between 1990 and 2017, and it is projected to double again by 2060. Due to the growing amounts of materials use, environmental pressures such as land degradation, greenhouse gas emissions and the dispersion of toxic substances in the environment are projected to more than double in the decades to come. In this context, improving resource efficiency and stimulating the transition towards a more circular economy has become crucial. In recent years an increasing number of governments have started implementing policies and strategies to meet this objective, but stronger efforts are needed to significantly improve the sustainability of materials management and the circularity of economies across the world.

[Do sound infrastructure governance and regulation affect productivity growth? New insights from firm level data](#)

Measuring the quality of governance and regulation in various ways and focusing on energy, transport and telecommunications, this paper shows that both sound governance of infrastructure investment and pro-competitive regulation in network industries are associated with stronger productivity growth in firms operating downstream.

[Carbon pricing design: Effectiveness, efficiency and feasibility - An investment perspective](#)

Carbon pricing helps countries steer their economies towards and along a carbon-neutral growth path. This paper considers how the design of carbon pricing instruments affects their effectiveness, efficiency and feasibility. Design choices matter both for taxes and Emissions Trading Systems (ETSs). Considering the role of carbon price stability for clean investment, the paper shows how volatile carbon prices can cause risk-averse investors to forego clean investment that they would have undertaken with more stable prices. The paper then evaluates the effectiveness and efficiency of policy instruments to stabilise carbon prices in ETSs, which tend to produce more volatile carbon prices than taxes. The paper analyses the auction reserve price in California, the carbon price support in the UK, and the market stability reserve in the EU ETS. Considering feasibility, the paper discusses the tax (or emissions) base, how revenue use can affect support from households and firms, and administrative choices.

[Addressing societal challenges using transdisciplinary research](#)

This report looks at how transdisciplinary research, which combines knowledge from different scientific disciplines with that of public and private sector stakeholders and citizens, can be used to address complex societal challenges. This includes developing effective responses in acute crises, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as longer-term solutions for sustainability development. In a series of 28 case studies, each of which is briefly summarised in the report, it identifies the key obstacles to effectively implementing transdisciplinary research. Many of these are embedded in the way that research systems are structured and managed and they are amenable to policy intervention. Examples of how various actors, including funding agencies and universities are adapting to better accommodate the requirements of transdisciplinary research are included in the report and related policy actions are ascribed for these actors.

[The Consequences of a more resource efficient and circular economy for international trade patterns A modelling assessment](#)

This report investigates the effects of a resource efficiency and circular economy (RE-CE) transition on international trade flows, using the OECD's ENV-Linkages model. A global RE-CE policy package will cause secondary materials to become cheaper, while primary materials become more expensive to produce. By 2040, primary non-ferrous metals are projected to decline by 35-50%, primary iron & steel by 15% and primary non-metallic minerals by around 10%. Regional shifts in production and trade-related effects (shifts in the regional sourcing of the primary materials by the materials processing sectors) account for roughly one-third of the total reduction in materials use. The other two thirds of

materials use reduction come from scale effects (reduced economic activity) and efficiency effects (reduced materials use per unit of output of the processed commodities).

[Aligning short-term climate action with long-term climate goals - Opportunities and options for enhancing alignment between NDCs and long-term strategies](#)

The Paris Agreement and its accompanying decision call for Parties to strive to formulate mid-century communicate long-term low-greenhouse gas emission development strategies (LT-LEDS) by 2020. Moreover, the Paris decision requests Parties to communicate a new or updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) by 2020. This paper finds that there is potential for these long-term strategies to guide short- and mid-term action and feed into future NDC submissions. This paper highlights that long-term strategies can substantially shape countries' short- and mid-term priorities, policies and investment pipelines, leading to significant cost reductions in the long-term. Linking NDCs to long-term mitigation strategies will be key in ensuring efficient use of resources, particularly crucial for responding to climate change amidst and following the COVID-19 crisis.

[Digital transformation and the futures of civic space to 2030](#)

Digital transformation is rapidly altering civic space, challenging the ways in which members of the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) and other providers of development co-operation strive to promote an enabling environment for civil society to contribute to sustainable development. This paper aims to support DAC members and other providers of development co-operation to integrate the implications of a range of plausible futures of civic space into positive policy action today. To this end, it provides an overview of the variables (i.e. current trends, drivers of change and uncertainties) that may determine the trajectory of civic space in the context of digital transformation; identifies four plausible futures that emerge from four different logical interactions of these variables - that could materialise over a ten-year horizon and be fully realised by 2030; and draws policy implications to support DAC members and other providers in designing development cooperation policies that best leverage the opportunities that digital transformation offers while mitigating its risks.

World Economic Forum (WEF)

[Cyber Resilience in the Electricity Ecosystem: Playbook for Boards and Cybersecurity Officers](#)

Maintaining cyber resilience across the ecosystem is a challenge for all organizations and a significant priority for critical infrastructure sectors such as electricity. Furthermore, the COVID-19 crisis is having a dramatic impact on our society and has forced everyone to become heavily reliant on the internet and its digital economy.

This paper can help leaders to strategically manage information risks, work towards a culture of shared cyber-risk ownership across the organization and take a more strategic approach to cyber resilience. Effective cyber resilience requires a combined, aligned multidisciplinary effort to move beyond compliance to cohesive business and digital enablement.

[Global Future Council on New Network Technologies - 5G: Society's Essential Innovation Technology A Community Paper by Global Future Council on New Network Technologies](#)

Many challenges faced by society today will be addressed and supported by advanced technologies that are able to harness, analyse, and connect massive datasets. One of these will be fifth-generation mobile networks, or 5G, which will provide a new foundational communications capability that brings humans and devices into a common orbit built around distributed, near-instantaneous interactions. By bringing the power of computing closer to data sources through 5G networks, previously unsolvable problems can now become a reality.

The World Economic Forum's Global Future Council on New Network Technologies, during its 2018-2020 term, focused on the benefits to society and the role of partnerships between government and the private sector when it comes to network technologies. It also explored the incentives for network

development and the distribution of value throughout the 5G environment, as well as the role of new systems in driving value and innovation. This document reflects the various discussions among Council Members and its extended community.

[Incentivizing Responsible and Secure Innovation: A framework for entrepreneurs and investors](#)

Cybersecurity is essential for business survival. Technology brings many positive innovations and opportunities but unless it is developed with security in mind, it presents more risks and potential disruption than solutions. This report provides a framework to develop technology in a secure manner, focusing on essential principles such as privacy-by-design and security-by-design.

[Diversity, Equity and Inclusion 4.0: A toolkit for leaders to accelerate social progress in the future of work](#)

The Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Toolkit explores the practical opportunities and risks that rapidly emerging technologies represent for diversity, equity and inclusion efforts. The toolkit outlines how technology can help reduce bias from recruitment processes, diversify talent pools, and benchmark diversity and inclusion across organizations. Research is also cited that suggests well-managed diverse teams significantly outperform homogenous ones over time, across profitability, innovation, decision-making, and employee engagement.

[Exploring Blockchain Technology for Government Transparency: Blockchain-Based Public Procurement to Reduce Corruption](#)

In partnership with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the Office of the Inspector General of Colombia (Procuraduría General de Colombia), the Forum has led a multistakeholder team to investigate, design and trial the use of blockchain technology for corruption-prone government processes, anchored in the use case of public procurement. The project, led by the Blockchain and Digital Currency team housed within the World Economic Forum Centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution, is called Unlocking Government Transparency with Blockchain Technology.

[AI Procurement in a Box - AI, procurement, guidelines, best practice, regulation, readiness](#)

The promises of artificial intelligence (AI) technologies lie beyond our imaginations and the risks accompanying them remain impossible to forecast. Government officials working in procurement can't be expected to possess the most up-to-date knowledge in this increasingly specialized field. As a result, safeguarding the responsible use of AI technologies requires a multistakeholder effort.

Now is the time to create a set of actionable procurement guidelines to enable good decision-making that can also be evaluated. This project provides a guidebook designed to unlock public-sector adoption of AI through government procurement and a set of complementary tools to demonstrate the emerging global consensus on the responsible deployment of AI technologies.

[New Nature Economy Report Series](#)

A series of reports showing the relevance of nature loss to boardroom discussions on risks, opportunities and financing. These insights provide pathways for business to be part of the transition to a nature-positive economy. The New Nature Economy report series aims to help business leaders and policymakers take informed action in contributing to a nature-positive economy.

Journal of Futures Studies

[The Islamic World And Covid-19: Geo-Political changes, Demographic shifts, and the possibility of a Renaissance](#)

As the Muslim community encompasses a vast region stretching from Jakarta (Indonesia) to Tanja (Morocco), and includes diverse languages, cultures, religions and political systems, anticipating its futures demands a context-sensitive approach. From an Islamic point of view, WHO preventive

measures and guidance do not contradict Islamic teaching regarding pandemics. Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) advised: “If you hear of an outbreak of plague in a land, do not enter it; if the plague outbreaks out in a place while you are in it, do not leave that place.[1]”

The following are four possible futures: (1) The changing of the guard; (2) the revolution of the youth; (3) Hold the line; and (4) The new planetary Ummah.

European Parliamentary Technology Assessment (EPTA)

[Blockchain: Capabilities, Economic Viability, and the Socio-Technical Environment](#)

Blockchain is widely considered a new key technology. The Foundation for Technology Assessment (TA-SWISS) has proposed a comprehensive assessment of blockchain technologies. With this publication, TA-SWISS provides the much-needed social contextualisation of blockchain.

The first, more technical part of the study takes an in-depth look at how blockchain functions and examines the economic potential of this technology. By analysing multiple real-world applications, the study sheds light on where the blockchain has advantages over traditional applications and where existing technologies continue to be the better solution.

The second part of the study examines how blockchain became mainstream. It explores the origins of blockchain in the early history of information technology and computer networks. The study also reveals the impact blockchain has on industrial and public spaces. Finally, it discusses the social implications and challenges of blockchain against the background of a new socio-technical environment.

[Programmed trust: Opportunities and risks of blockchain technology](#)

Libra, the global payment system developed by Facebook, was supposed to be the big breakthrough: at last, the first blockchain-based application that could be used for everyday transactions. In the meantime, however, the signs for a mainstream use of blockchain technology are no longer very promising. Various major companies participating in the project – including Visa, Mastercard and PayPal – abandoned the Project already before its planned start in 2020. Resistance to the novel currency is too strong, and central banks and governments have serious reservations about the parallel payment system – an inauditable “private global currency” – that functions without bank or governmental oversight and that could encourage money laundering, finance terrorism and destabilise the established financial system.

European Parliamentary Research Service (EPRS)

[Environmental liability of companies](#)

This study, commissioned by the European Parliament’s Policy Department for Citizens’ Rights and Constitutional Affairs, aims at gaining deeper insights into the environmental liability of companies in the European Union. It analyses the role of companies within the Environmental Liability Directive (ELD) and pays attention to potential hurdles that may limit the possibility to hold companies liable for environmental harm. Various remedies to the limited liability of the corporation are discussed and suggestions are formulated to improve access to justice for victims of environmental harm. Specific attention is paid to a balanced regime of mandatory solvency guarantees to support the ELD liabilities of companies.

[Europeanising European Public Spheres](#)

This study, commissioned by the European Parliament’s Policy Department for Citizens’ Rights and Constitutional Affairs at the request of the AFCO Committee, provides a brief overview of the academic debates on Europeanisation as well as contestation and politicisation of the EU and European integration. Against this background, it focuses on the European public sphere(s), in particular those

based on the media and parliaments. The study further discusses current reform proposals aiming to Europeanise the European elections and concludes with recommendations on increasing the legitimacy of the European Union.

[Assessing the potential impact of an EU-India trade agreement](#)

The EU and India are major actors in the international arena and the discussions over a possible Free Trade Agreement has been ongoing for several years. This study analyses the potential effects of an FTA between EU and India in a "Cost of Non Europe" perspective. The results of a quantitative simulation of a potential FTA in goods and services indicate that welfare gains from increased trade for both sides may be between € 8 billion and € 8.5 billion (0.03 % increase with respect to the baseline for the EU and about 0.3 % for India). Furthermore, a qualitative analysis suggests that potential gains may appear from a coordinated EU action in addressing possible side effects, distributive impacts and externalities (such as inequalities, labour market effects, poverty and development implications, environmental issues) and from increased coordination in the provision of global public goods. By considering these aspects, the Cost of Non-Europe in the field may be larger.

[Energy-intensive industries](#)

Energy-intensive industries need to reach climate neutrality by 2050. This study describes the technologies available for the decarbonisation of the iron and steel, chemicals, refining and cement industries as well as the existing financial instruments. Technology and policy roadmaps are presented to help shape the Green Deal and enhance the transition to a climate neutral European industry.

[Opportunities of Artificial Intelligence](#)

This study focuses on presenting the technological, impact and regulatory state of play in the EU, as compared to key competitor countries. This study also highlights industrial areas in which AI will bring significant socioeconomic benefits, before presenting a methodology for scrutinising the fitness of the EU policy and regulatory framework in the context of AI.

[Artificial intelligence: How does it work, why does it matter, and what can we do about it?](#)

Artificial intelligence (AI) is probably the defining technology of the last decade, and perhaps also the next. The aim of this report is to support meaningful reflection and productive debate about AI by providing accessible information about the full range of current and speculative techniques and their associated impacts, and setting out a wide range of regulatory, technological and societal measures that could be mobilised in response.

[The impact of the General Data Protection Regulation \(GDPR\) on artificial intelligence](#)

This study addresses the relation between the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and artificial intelligence (AI). It considers challenges and opportunities for individuals and society, and the ways in which risks can be countered and opportunities enabled through law and technology. The study discusses the tensions and proximities between AI and data protection principles, such as in particular purpose limitation and data minimisation. It makes a thorough analysis of automated decision-making, considering the extent to which it is admissible, the safeguard measures to be adopted, and whether data subjects have a right to individual explanations. The study then considers the extent to which the GDPR provides for a preventive risk-based approach, focused on data protection by design and by default.

[Artificial intelligence: From ethics to policy](#)

There is little doubt that artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML) will revolutionise public services. However, the power for positive change that AI provides simultaneously has a potential for negative impacts on society. AI ethics work to uncover the variety of ethical issues resulting from the design, development, and deployment of AI. The question at the centre of all current work in AI ethics

is: 'How can we move from AI ethics to specific policy and legislation for governing AI?' Based on a framing of 'AI as a social experiment', this study arrives at policy options for public administrations and governmental organisations who are looking to deploy AI/ML solutions, as well as the private companies who are creating AI/ML solutions for use in the public arena. The reasons for targeting this application sector concern: the need for a high standard of transparency, respect for democratic values, and legitimacy. The policy options presented here chart a path towards accountability; procedures and decisions of an ethical nature are systematically logged prior to the deployment of an AI system. This logging is the first step in allowing ethics to play a crucial role in the implementation of AI for the public good.

[Online Platforms' Moderation of Illegal Content Online](#)

Online platforms have created content moderation systems, particularly in relation to tackling illegal content online. This study reviews and assesses the EU regulatory framework on content moderation and the practices by key online platforms. On that basis, it makes recommendations to improve the EU legal framework within the context of the forthcoming Digital Services Act.

[European economic recovery](#)

A more united Europe has the potential to deliver greater benefits for its citizens, more effectively and efficiently, by offering a level of strategic scale and depth that no individual Member State, or even group of Member States, can achieve on their own. In particular, the combination of Europe's single market and economic and monetary union, used to their full potential and complemented by progress in other policy areas, such as the Green Deal, could prove to be key assets for a strong European recovery from the serious economic shock recently administered by the coronavirus pandemic. An intensive debate has therefore opened up about the potential benefits of moving towards a higher degree of risk-sharing and collective 'strategic autonomy' for the Union, based on stronger and deeper common policies at EU level. The recent European Commission proposal for a 'Next Generation EU' recovery plan is likely to prove an important staging-point in this process. In practice, the size of the recovery response, the policy areas chosen for deepening, the financing options available to support them, and the degree to which they are matched by a greater willingness of the Union to 'act as one' on the international stage, are all likely to be determining factors in the outcome. This paper analyses some of the issues arising specifically in the economic field in the aftermath of the coronavirus crisis and looks at a range of policy initiatives that could help build a broadly based and sustainable European economic recovery and a more resilient European Union.

McKinsey&Company

[From a room called fear to a room called hope: A leadership agenda for troubled times](#)

Leadership matters most—and is hardest to do well—when people face objective threats, when old ways of working are no longer possible, and when confusion and anxiety abound. These are brutal and relentless facts of organizational life for tens of thousands of leaders who feel heightened responsibility for billions of people as a result of the COVID-19 crisis. We offer a modest agenda to help such leaders.

[Prioritizing health: A prescription for prosperity](#)

Could 65 be the new 55? Each year, poor health takes a heavy societal and economic toll. Improving the health of the world's population would add 10 healthy years in midlife—and much more.

[A dual cybersecurity mindset for the next normal](#)

As companies extend commitments to remote workforces, cybersecurity teams need to address new risks while helping create business value in the next normal.

[The future of work in Europe](#)

This discussion paper focuses on longer-term trends affecting employment in more than 1,000 local and regional labor markets across Europe at a time when automation adoption is gathering pace. The research was mostly conducted before COVID-19 sparked a twin global health and economic crisis. It is too early to tell how the crisis will evolve, but decisions that government and business leaders make today in response to COVID-19 will need to factor in the longer-term trends that we identify here. The crisis could accelerate some of the trends that we identify and it could slow down others. The trends we identify include the differential speeds to automation adoption across Europe's regional labor markets; the growing divergence between the most dynamic cities and shrinking regions across the continent; a decline in labor supply that could create a shortage of workers, particularly in growing sectors and regions; and major shifts in the types of skills and specific occupations that will thrive or be put at risk.

[Driving CO2 emissions to zero \(and beyond\) with carbon capture, use, and storage](#)

Any pathway to mitigate climate change requires the rapid reduction of CO2 emissions and negative-emissions technologies to cut atmospheric concentrations. Technology and regulation will be the key.

Centre for European Policy Studies CEPS

[STUDY ON UP- AND RE-SKILLING IN MICRO AND SMALL ENTERPRISES](#)

Skills development is necessary to face changes in the labour market, led by important transformations such as digitalisation, ageing populations and climate change. Given the importance of micro and small enterprises for the EU economy and employment, the study provides insights into the main challenges faced by those companies, potential opportunities stemming from up-skilling and re-skilling activities as well as policy options.

[‘CORONATIONALISM’ VS A GEOPOLITICAL EUROPE?](#)

EU member states have been discussing how to deal with the socio-economic repercussions of the Covid-19 pandemic, collectively. While lively debates about internal solidarity continue, there is also the pressing issue of how the EU and its member states wish to support third countries, outside the EU, in tackling their health and economic emergencies.

On the one hand, the EU wishes to become a geopolitical power, which demands that the Union and its member states step up their supportive role on the global scene. On the other, there are signs of ‘coronationalism,’ with some national political parties questioning the timing of EU external aid when member states themselves are struggling.

Based on expert contributions from a representative cross-section of 13 member states, this paper delves into the question of whether and how external solidarity features in political and public discourse in Covid-struck Europe. It finds that, for now, neither coronationalist nor geopolitical ambitions dominate the relatively little politicised debates about international cooperation and development aid.

[EUROPE'S DIGITAL VERIFICATION OPPORTUNITY](#)

Europe should move fast to allow the private sector to leverage its public digital verification system, especially in view of the changes to communication brought about by the Covid-19 crisis, concludes this new study. Identity verification remains a time-consuming, arduous process in Europe, often requiring paper documentation and a myriad of certificates guaranteeing credentials. Sometimes, a physical face to face meeting is also needed.

This report shows how the EU has constructed a unique cross-border electronic identification infrastructure with digitally linked verification (eID) and interoperable electronic authentication

(eIDAS). These advances make Europe the first and only region in the world where digital ID and verification are provided securely and in a legally enforceable manner.

But Europe's impressive digital verification system was mainly designed to ease citizen-government interactions. On average, citizens have only one or two interactions a year with their authorities. Private-sector use will therefore be key to it reaching its potential.

Although reliance on digital verification raises understandable fears about increased government and corporate surveillance, the report argues that new technologies allow strong privacy protection while ensuring at-distance accuracy. To achieve this goal, Europe needs to fill in certain in GDPR data protection rules concerning digital verification, and encourage the adoption of privacy-protecting technologies such as blockchain.

European Centre for International Political Economy (ECIPE)

[Europe's Quest for Technology Sovereignty: Opportunities and Pitfalls](#)

Some European policymakers calling for "European Technology Sovereignty" or "European Digital Sovereignty". European Commission began to "institutionalise" certain ideas of sovereignty in its recent industrial and digital strategy communications. Political perception: loss of sovereignty when government does not control the evolution of digital technologies and companies. But: lack of political consensus whether technology or digital sovereignty is the best way to ensure a stronger digital Europe.

BROOKINGS INSTITUTION

[Europe changes its mind on China](#)

Over the past few years, the European Union and a handful of other European countries have reluctantly moved away from a China policy organized around economic engagement toward a policy of limiting China's influence in Europe for strategic and security reasons. This is a distinctly and uniquely European style of balancing, which involves marshaling Europe's internal power and working to build unity across member states. It has almost nothing to do with kinetic military power and is instead focused on technology, diplomacy, economics, and politics.

The driving force behind this shift is China's behavior — its refusal to end practices of intellectual property theft and forced technology transfers, its failure to enhance market openness for European companies, its use of coercive economic tools and political influence in Europe, and its illiberalism on the world stage. In some ways, the European shift is occurring despite American pressure, not because of it. If China were a responsible stakeholder, U.S. pressure would very likely lead to Europe hedging against the Trump administration and increasing engagement with Beijing. After all, most Europeans are profoundly worried by President Donald Trump, and China seemed well poised to take advantage of this with adroit diplomacy to weaken the trans-Atlantic bond. That it utterly failed to do so shows how badly Beijing has bungled its Europe policy.

With all of that said, Europe is far from united behind this strategic shift. There are Europe-wide divisions, differences between countries, and within them. German Chancellor Angela Merkel remains the most important figure on the pro-engagement side. But unless China's behavior becomes more benign, Europe's evolution toward balancing looks set to continue.

Chatham House

[The Business Case for Investment in Nutrition](#)

Malnutrition acts as a brake on the development of individuals, communities and economies around the world. This report is the first of its kind to reveal the hidden costs of malnutrition for business, and the extent to which these costs are recognized and addressed by multinational companies (MNCs).

[Expert Perspectives on Norway's Energy Future](#)

The world is undergoing a transition away from fossil fuels towards renewable energy. However, the speed and depth of this transition is uncertain and controversial. This will have significant implications for Norway, one of the world's largest exporters of both energy and capital.

Bruegel

[Greening the recovery by greening the fiscal consolidation](#)

In the wake of COVID-19, some economic recovery policies will help green the economy – for example, energy renovation of buildings. But there are limits to the share of stimulus that can be explicitly green. The European Union should therefore also green the fiscal consolidation by setting out the path to much higher carbon prices than today. This would guide investment and provide revenues to help the fiscal consolidation.

[The impact economy: balancing profit and impact](#)

Governments and companies can reinforce each other in their pursuit of sustainable development, which is based on three pillars: economic, social and environmental. An impact economy, in which governments and companies balance profit and impact, is best placed to achieve the United Nations sustainable development goals.

[The financial fragility of European households in the time of COVID-19](#)

The concept of household financial fragility emerged in the United States after the 2007-2008 financial crisis. It grew out of the need to understand whether households' lack of capacity to face shocks could itself become a source of financial instability.

In the wake of COVID-19, we ask how well-prepared households were in the European Union (including the United Kingdom) to handle an unexpected expense. Two years before the pandemic hit, a substantial share of EU households reported that they would be unable to handle unexpected expenses. In some EU countries, many households had savings equivalent to just a few weeks of basic consumption.

The Oxford Institute for Energy Studies

[The geopolitics of China's energy transition](#)

China's emergence as a global economic power and energy consumer has shaped global energy production and trade flows. In the fossil fuel world, though, China was a technology follower and a price taker. In the energy transition, China is likely to play a vastly different role. Government-supported efforts to spur innovation have coincided with growing environmental awareness at home. As such, Chinese companies are becoming global leaders in the technologies underpinning the energy transition. Beijing has also been able to capitalise diplomatically on these gains to become a global leader on climate. Yet China's track record is extremely mixed. It remains the largest consumer of coal and is also the fastest growing renewables market globally. Similarly, in its overseas investments, China is fuel-agnostic and technology-agnostic, willing to finance and sell both coal-fired power plants and clean energy equipment and solutions. The scope and speed with which China chooses to pursue its own energy transition will remain a key variable in the global energy shift. Indeed, China is unique in its efforts to decarbonise before it has fully industrialised but in the near term, the country is still likely to electrify its energy use before it decarbonises power. As the gulf between the US and China deepens, technological decoupling could become a hindrance to China's energy transition and China may look to slow its shift away from coal, even as it accelerates its efforts to become a global leader in clean

technologies. At the same time, competition for control over the infrastructure and commodity supply chains critical to the energy transition could also get caught up in US-China tensions.

European Policy Centre (EPC)

[Heading for disaster](#)

The current UK-EU negotiations are heading for disaster: the probability of a 'bare-bones' trade deal, with some limited add-ons, is looking strong. The future relationship between the two will most probably be blighted by tensions over continual trade disputes.

Labour peer and member of the House of Lord's European Union Select Committee, Roger Liddle, outlines how the UK government is increasingly fraying away from the October Political Declaration and Withdrawal Agreement. This deviation from its signed commitments demonstrate the Johnson administration's seeming prioritisation of British sovereignty and independence, at the expense of economic integration and institutionalised cooperation.

Liddle provides a frank analysis of both sides' expectations and realities in a range of topics – Northern Ireland, establishing a level playing field, the moot issue of fisheries, security –, measuring one against another to depict a contentious future UK-EU relationship.

[Fostering Europe's Strategic Autonomy - A new Agenda for Trade and Investment](#)

This paper, the first in a series on Europe's strategic autonomy the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung and the European Policy Centre will publish together, argues that the EU should begin by strengthening and modernising its trade defence instruments. At the same time, it must ensure the viability of the temporary appeal arrangement set up to cope with the blockage of the WTO Appellate Body.

Second, the EU should ensure a level playing field for all companies within the Single Market, ensure reciprocity in market access, screen FDIs more strategically at the EU level, and better enforce its free trade agreements – including its standards on sustainability.

Finally, the EU should continue to engage internationally, modernise its networks of FTAs, and re-centre its trade policy around fewer top priorities.

Friends of Europe

[What will the next 'Great Depression' look like?](#)

Giles Merritt warns that the EU and its member governments are responding to the corona crisis as if expecting a recession and not a full-blown depression.

Atlantic Council

[A global strategy for shaping the post-COVID-19 world](#)

The COVID-19 pandemic is an acute public health and economic crisis that is further destabilizing an already weakened rules-based international system. With cooperation, determination, and resolve, however, the United States and its allies can recover from the crisis and revitalize an adapted rules-based system to bring about decades of future freedom, peace, and prosperity.

[Trade and financial fragmentation: New challenges to global stability](#)

There is greater uncertainty today about the future of global trade than at any time since the post-World War II trading system was created seven decades ago. This was true before the COVID-19 pandemic froze much of the world economy; the health crisis has added a new layer of uncertainty.

We are at a historic inflection point: the global trade regime urgently needs renovation and updating to meet new challenges, yet it is fraying and fragmenting.

Mercator Institute for China Studies

[If push comes to shove, less China](#)

Hong Kong, Huawei, USA – Europe's China policy faces some crucial decisions, says Mikko Huotari. Germany's EU Council Presidency has to gauge how cooperative Beijing will be and take a clear stand. Partnership is no longer the default position in EU-China relations.

[How Germany could shape Europe's policy on China](#)

Germany has the chance to put values into action as EU Council President. Kirstin Shi Kupfer suggests three guiding principles for EU policy towards China.

European Council on foreign relations

[In sickness and in health: European cooperation during the coronavirus crisis](#)

ECFR research into how EU member states and institutions worked together – or failed to – at the height of covid-19 confirms Germany was the bloc's undisputed crisis leader.

Germany made a shaky start in showing solidarity on the pandemic, but regained other member states' trust on the health and economy fronts. The Netherlands, however, paid a reputational price as the leading 'frugal' state opposing greater financial burden-sharing.

EU institutions won few plaudits but policymakers still look to it for post-crisis economic leadership.

France emerged at the head of a strengthened 'southern' grouping of member states, while the Visegrad platform was invisible during this crisis.

It will fall to Germany and France to close the north-south divide, building coalitions on major policies. But they should not forget that closing the east-west divide remains an important goal.

MIT Solan

[The Cost of Confidence](#)

The pandemic has clobbered consumer confidence, creating challenges and opportunities to which every organization — brand owners, especially — must respond. Consumer confidence will be the new currency of business; here's how companies can respond.

[The Great Innovation Deceleration](#)

Our response to the COVID-19 pandemic could damage the world's collective brain.

Fraunhofer Institute for Systems and Innovation Research

[COVID-19 and the academy: It is time for going digital](#)

In many countries, the lock-down due to the COVID-19 pandemic triggered discussions on the use of digital interaction formats for academic exchange. The pace with which researchers adopted digital formats for conferences, lectures, and meetings revealed that currently available tools can substitute many of the physical interactions in the workplace. It also showed that academics are willing to use digital tools for scientific exchange. This article sheds light on scholars' experiences with digital formats and tools during the pandemic. We argue that digital interaction formats increase the inclusivity of knowledge exchange, reduce time and costs of organizing academic interactions, and enable more diverse workspaces with geographical and temporal flexibility. However, we also observe that digital

interaction formats struggle to reproduce social interactions such as informal discussions, raise new concerns on data security, and can induce higher stress levels due to the blurring of the boundaries between work and private spaces. We argue that digital formats are not meant to substitute physical interactions entirely, but rather reshape how research communities operate and how academics socialize. We expect hybrid formats to emerge, which combine digital and physical interaction formats, and an increase in digital interactions between geographically distant working groups. We conclude that the time has come for digital interaction formats to be part of a new regime in the field of academic exchange.