

# CEP Newsletter

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## The Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP): Setting Global Standards?

On the 12<sup>th</sup> of May, CEP and EuroChallenge hosted a roundtable discussion about the controversial transatlantic trade agreement currently being negotiated between the European Union and the United States. In the panel, visiting scholar at CEP Gabriel Siles-Brügge was accompanied by both advocates arguing that an agreement will generate growth and jobs, and critics fearing that social and environmental standards will be diluted. You can read more about the viewpoints expressed in the debate in this Newsletter's research column written by Associate Prof. Jens Ladefoged Mortensen, who was chairing the discussions. Jens is doing research on international trade and is one of the leading experts in Denmark on EU-US trade relations and the TTIP negotiations.



## CEP-RESEARCHER WINS INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED AWARD

Associate Professor Rebecca Adler-Nissen has been awarded the 2015 Susan Strange Prize by the British International Studies Association (BISA) for the best book published in any field of international studies.

## PHD DEFENSE

CEP researcher Ruxandra Lupu Dinesen successfully defended her PhD thesis "The European Union and the Neighborhood Revolutions: A force for democracy or stability?" In her thesis Ruxandra examines how the EU responded to the 'revolutions' in Moldova and Tunisia. Her main findings suggest that the nature of the EU's responses tends to be more dependent on local demand or local opposition for EU actions in such situations rather than on the pursuit of the EU's own interests or/and values. This challenges the widespread claim that responses to conflicts are usually explained by geostrategic interests.

## Master Thesis on Greek Foreign Policy Wins Annual CEP Prize

Every year CEP awards a prize for an excellent master thesis on a European topic. This year the prize went to Helene Enegaard Lykorens for her thesis on Greece's foreign policy vis-à-vis Turkey before and after the European Council meeting in December 1999. Helene received the prize on the grounds that the thesis is an impressive work in which she shows a remarkable methodological understanding in the way the discourse analysis is carried out. Moreover her selection and use of empirical material demonstrates a vast knowledge about Greek politics. Adding to that her understanding of the Greek language makes the thesis a valuable contribution to existing work on the region. With the prize follows 1.957 kr. Congratulations!

## SEMINAR: BREXIT

In the run-up to the UK General Election in May, CEP co-hosted the seminar 'British Exit from the EU? Legal and Political Implications for Europe'. The seminar focused on the impact of a British exit, not only on the UK, but also on the other member states - including Denmark. The seminar concluded with a talk with Denmark's Ambassador to the UK, Claus Grube, and a discussion with the audience.

## EURECO Distinguished Lecture Series 2015



Under the headline "Democracy and Human Rights in Europe", EURECO's Distinguished Lecture Series this fall will take the temperature on the state of democracy and human rights in Europe. The lecture series will explore how democracy has been challenged by the financial crisis in the Eurozone and how the balance of power between the member states and between the political and legal branches in the EU potentially has altered. How has power shifted and what are the institutional and legal implications? And what do the topical cases of "Brexit" and

"Grexit" tell us about the democratic state of the EU? Furthermore, questions about democratic participation, the role of civil society organizations and ordinary citizens, as well as the powers and the incorporation of interest groups in EU decision-making will be addressed. Among the speakers is CEP researcher postdoc Henrik Hermansson. In his lecture, he will discuss the question whether interest groups in the EU are true powers or tools of those in power?

The EURECO Distinguished Lecture Series is open to the public and anyone with an interest in European issues is welcome to sign-up for a series of lectures where some of the best scholars within the field will present and discuss their current work.

[More information and registration here.](#)

## LATEST RESEARCH

**Martinsen, Dorte Sindbjerg & Nikolay Vasev** (2015) 'A Difficult Encounter - National Health Care Models and the European Union', *Social Policy & Administration*, 49 (4) pp. 427-444

Vollaard, Hans, Hester van de Bovenkamp & **Dorte Sindbjerg Martinsen** (2015) "The making of a European healthcare union: a federalist perspective". *Journal of European Public Policy*. Published online 25 April 2015

**Nedergaard, Peter & Holly Snaith** (2015) "As I Drifted on a River I Could Not Control": The Unintended Ordoliberal Consequences of the Eurozone Crisis', *Journal of Common Market Studies*. Published online 13 April 2015

**Nedergaard, Peter** (2015) *Rusland - Politik, økonomi og samfund*. København: Forlaget Columbus.

Bang, Henrik, Mads Dagnis Jensen & **Peter Nedergaard** (2015) "We the People' versus 'We the Heads of States': the debate on the democratic deficit of the European Union", *Policy Studies*, 36 (2) pp.196-216

*CEP wishes everyone a happy summer!*

## RESEARCH COLUMN

### The Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP): Setting Global Standards?

- By Jens Ladefoged Mortensen, Associate Prof., Dept. of Political Science, University of Copenhagen



The ambitious TTIP agreement currently under negotiation between the European Union and the United States aims to deliver jobs, growth and geopolitical leadership of

the global economy. After two years of negotiations, the reality today is much different, however. The project seems stalled. The TTIP is intensely debated across Europe. The European Parliament could not agree with the recommendations of their International Trade Committee recently. The proposed agreement has split the European Parliament into two with a divided center-left group in the middle. TTIP has evolved into an intense standoff between proponents and critics, a crack in the historic coalition on a European social market. The crack is most visible on the investment chapter, the inclusion of the investor-to-state dispute settlement (ISDS). However, this issue has almost overshadowed the more significant proposals of regulatory cooperation in the TTIP. Proponents see this as the biggest prize of the TTIP whereas critics see it as unrestricted deregulation of the European market.

The TTIP roundtable, hosted by CEP and EuroChallenge in May, was a unique opportunity to learn about regulatory liberalisation and discuss the current TTIP proposals in more detail. The meeting brought together key players from the TTIP debate in Denmark, and provided for a nuanced overview of and reflections on the merits and demerits of further liberalizing transatlantic trade.

Peter Bay Christensen, Senior Advisor on Trade Policy, Confederation of Danish Industries, spoke about the economic gains from TTIP, acknowledging that forecasts were not always accurate, but maintained that TTIP would deliver growth and jobs for Europe, and in particular Denmark. Regulatory cooperation, he argued, was essential for export growth. Administration and all 'unnecessary' barriers to trade, such as duplication of approval or certification procedures should be cut to a minimum. Concerns about the precautionary principle were overstated, in his view, and subject to negotiations. He acknowledged that certain regulatory barriers were necessary and therefore beyond TTIP. He also stressed the strategic rationale of TTIP; to project our common regulatory values to the rest of the world economy.

Gabriel Siles-Brügge, Lecturer in Politics at University of Manchester and currently visiting scholar at CEP, cautioned about the 'jobs-and-growth' story, recalling that such growth numbers were nothing more than

uncertain model estimates. He found that regulatory cooperation was problematic as non-tariff barriers were never neutral. The real effect of TTIP would be deregulatory rather than growth-generating. He also had doubts to whether TTIP would succeed as a global standard setter, emphasizing that it was not at all given that China eventually would adopt the TTIP regulatory framework. Finally, he warned that TTIP could make upward standard-setting difficult in the future.

Vagn Jelsøe, Deputy Executive Director, Danish Consumer Council, spoke about consumer interests, and reflected upon the transparency issue. Though transparency had been improved, he argued, much was still left to be desired. The technical complexity of the issue is a problem. It was problematic that members of the TTIP Advisory Group could not bring confidential position papers to the appropriate experts. On regulatory cooperation, he stressed that the European and American consumer protection systems remained quite incompatible, pointing to e.g. class action law suits, so full harmonization would be very difficult.

Torbjorn Olausson, Economic Counsellor at the European Commission's Office in Copenhagen, situated the TTIP process in historical context of EU trade policy, explaining that bilateral free trade agreements remains second-best option compared to multilateral trade but, as the WTO has been paralyzed for more than a decade, it was simply necessary to seek trade liberalisation elsewhere. He emphasized that regulatory cooperation was not a new thing; it has been pursued for decades across the Atlantic, in the WTO and with other trading partners. He explained that much of regulatory cooperation really is about uncontroversial technical differences that often served outdated producer interests, and that sensitive areas are being excluded from TTIP negotiations as they move forward.

TTIP has not figured prominently in the Danish debate, in stark contrast to the rest of Europe. Perhaps Danes feel less threatened by globalization, perhaps Danes are more pro-American, or perhaps Denmark sees itself on the winning side of TTIP. The roundtable debate was timely and vibrant. As the European Parliament moves closer to clarifying its position, the TTIP debate rages on. Critics fear that social and environmental standards will be diluted as a result of TTIP. Proponents fear that Europe will lose the last opportunity to define the global game. TTIP is destined to be one of the most critical issues confronting Europe in the years ahead.

*The researcher column is written in turn by the researchers at the Centre for European Politics. The column does not represent a common CE-position.*

## VISITING SCHOLAR INTERVIEW

Visiting scholar Gabriel Siles-Brügge talks about his research, the TTIP negotiations, and his stay at CEP.

[Read the interview here.](#)

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## MEMBERS OF CEP

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**Majka Holm**, Research Assistant and Coordinator at CEP, EURECO and Euro-Challenge.

For more information visit CEP's website: [www.cep.polsci.ku.dk](http://www.cep.polsci.ku.dk)

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## ABOUT THE NEWSLETTER

**Editor:** Marlene Wind ([mwi@ifs.ku.dk](mailto:mwi@ifs.ku.dk))

The newsletter is published four times a year and includes the latest updates on activities and research at the Centre for European Politics.

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