

NEWSLETTER

December 2024/2

How to talk about sustainable topics in schools | National Convent recommendations and new publications

Welcome to the last newsletter of the year!

In the first half of December, our experts commented mostly on **political developments in South Korea**. They also covered the conclusion of a **trade agreement with the Mercosur association** of South American states or environmental protection measures, such as the new **ETS2** emissions trading system.

On Friday, **6 December**, along with **Based platform**, we co-organized a **debate on the premiere of the educational programme on environmental issues, Příhořívá**. The event was moderated by greenfluencers **Tereza Koubková and Rozárie Haškovcová**. The programme included a screening of the first two episodes of the programme, you can read more about the event further in the newsletter.

With the Café Evropa regional debate series we visited **Třinec** and **Strakonice**. Our guests and participants debated not only the current challenges of the European Union, but also the opportunities for international cooperation – from the level of cities and municipalities to the US-EU partnership. There is also a **new Café Evropa podcast** – this time with former vice-president of the European Commission **Věra Jourová**, who remembered her **ten-year tenure at the European Commission**.

We also published several papers by our researchers as well as blogs by interns from our Prague and Brussels offices. In collaboration with AMO EUROPEUM Institute analyst **Filip Křenek** wrote a **Policy Brief on the next EU Multiannual Financial Framework for the period 2028–2034**, especially in the context of the EU's ambitious environmental plans. In the text, researcher **Zuzana Krulichová** and associate research fellow **Tereza Novotná** **summarize the events at the National Convention and develop a series of recommendations** for improving the Czech Republic's defence capability. In their Policy Paper, EUROPEUM Institute Research Fellow **Danielle Piatkiewicz** and Senior Analyst at the Polish Institute of International Relations **Mateusz M. Piotrowski** summarize **key findings and reflections from the Transatlantic Policy Forum**, including actionable **recommendations and a strategic "to-do list"** for the Transatlantic Alliance in the coming years. Read more in the newsletter below.

We wish you a peaceful holiday season and happy new year,

EUROPEUM Institute team

Café Evropa regional debates



In the first week of December, we held two **Café Evropa debates** on the Czech Republic's 20 years in the European Union.

On 3 December in the library in **Třinec** guests were **Věra Palkovská**, Mayor of town and **Igor Blahušiak**, expert on European affairs. Along with the participants they talked about cross-border cooperation between cities and municipalities, the difference in perception of the EU between Czechs and Poles and **the EU's dependence on raw materials from China**.

The next day, 4 December, we visited **Strakonice**. Guests **Pavel Vondrys**, former mayor of town and **Veronika Lukášová**, spokeswoman for the Minister of European Affairs, discussed topics such as the US-EU partnership, **EU projects in Strakonice and the competitiveness of Europe**.

Café Evropa podcast

What will the European Union and the new European Commission **have to deal with**? Donald Trump's return to the White House, the ongoing war in Ukraine and Europe's competitiveness.

In the **new episode of the Café Evropa podcast**, Viktor Daněk talks to **former European Commission Vice-President Věra Jourová**, who spent 10 years in Brussels. What does she think about Elon Musk's influence on the future US administration? And **how crucial role** will the new NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte play?

Listen to the episode on Spotify or stream on YouTube.



Listen on Spotify!

NATO debate



As part of a series of **debates on NATO**, on 18 December we were welcomed at the high school (gymnázium) in Písek, where we talked with students about the **Czech Republic's preparations** for joining NATO and the **importance of our membership**.

The students were also interested in the form of **public support** in the Czech Republic **before joining** the North Atlantic Treaty Organization **compared to what it looks like today**.

Debate on environmental issues

Together with the **student education platform Based**, we organized a debate for the premiere of a **new educational programme on environmental issues called Příhořívá**, which was created within the framework of the platform. The event took place on **Friday December 6, 2024** in Smíchov's Next Zone.

The evening was hosted by the show's presenters and **greenfluencers Tereza Koubková and Rozárie Haškovcová**.

During the programme, the participants watched the **first two episodes of Příhořívá - about climate change and fast fashion**.

The episodes were sponsored by AMO climate adaptation expert **Romana Jungwirth Březovská** and EUROPEUM Institute researcher **Rebeka Hengalová**.



Newest publications

Report | **The Role of the Middle Corridor in EU's Energy Independence**



Following the start of the Russian full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022, the EU and its member states have managed to limit their reliance on Russian fossil fuels and diversify their imports. Yet, ongoing conflicts across the Eurasian continent, including instability around the **Suez Canal**, still threaten to disrupt global trade channels. This has **increased interest in the Middle Corridor**, also known as the Trans-Caspian International Transport Route (TITR), as a crucial strategy for diversifying commercial infrastructure and trade to improve the EU's economic and energy resilience. This event discussed the opportunities and challenges associated with the development of the Middle Corridor. Read the full report [here](#).

Policy Brief | How to pay for green transformation? Outlook for future EU financial instruments



The shape of the next EU Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) for the period 2028-2034 is the subject of one of the key debates facing the new EU institutions. Key questions include how much funding will be available to finance the green transformation of European economies. Indeed, there is a growing conviction that there is a **lack of adequately set incentives and support** for the existing climate targets and regulations adopted at EU level. In Policy Brief, EUROPEUM Institute analyst Filip Křenek and AMO analyst Tomáš Jungwirth Březovský write. Read more [here](#).

Blog | From Czechoslovakia to the EU: The historical roots of gender (in)equality in Czech and Slovak diplomacy



Year 2024 is likely to be seen as a key year for women's leadership in the EU. Ursula von der Leyen will continue her role as President of the European Commission, Roberta Metsola will lead the European Parliament and Kaja Kallas will head the EU's diplomatic service. This signals a stronger commitment to addressing the gender imbalance across the EU and this momentum can be expected to drive further efforts to promote equality in the years to come. **Kristina Gerová**, an intern at EUROPEUM's Brussels office, writes in her blog. Read the full article [here](#).

Policy Brief | Unveiling the Impact of EU Climate Adaptation Strategy on Safeguarding the Rights of the Most Vulnerable in the Czech Republic



The European Union has been implementing an **ambitious agenda** under the European Green Deal. Sustainable development and climate action have been prioritized as per the ambitious goals covered in the European Green Deal. However, as underscored by Ursula von der Leyen, the **focus for the strategic priorities has recently shifted towards economic security, competitiveness, and defence**. Yet, the climate crisis constitutes an **unprecedented security threat for modern humanity** and the development of resilience towards climate change should still serve as a precondition for the fulfilment of those strategic priorities. Writes **Elif Naz Němec** in her Policy Brief. Read more [here](#).

National Convent | The Union and its Defence The impact of geopolitics, transatlantic relations and technological developments on the security of the European continent



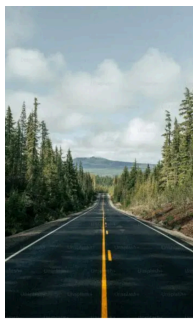
The European security environment has changed fundamentally over the past decade in response to growing geopolitical risks. Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the growing influence of authoritarian powers such as China and Russia, and escalating tensions in key regions such as the Middle East and the Indo-Pacific are **reshaping the way Europe views its security and defence**. These challenges are leading to a deepening of defence cooperation within and outside the EU, which includes the development of new policies, structures and initiatives, and cooperation with NATO also underlines the **need for strategic alignment between European and transatlantic partners**. Written by EUROPEUM Institute researcher **Zuzana Krulichová** and research associate fellow **Tereza Novotná**. Read more [here](#).

Policy Paper | Predicting the Unpredictable: Making sense of Transatlantic Relations for 2025 Post Transatlantic Policy Forum 2024



The result from the 2024 Presidential elections has, once again, shook the foundations of the Transatlantic relationship – but to what degree, remains the question. This policy paper compiles the key insights and deliberations from the Forum, which adhered to the Chatham House Rule to protect participant confidentiality. Based on the engaging discussions, this paper offers a comprehensive set of takeaways, including actionable recommendations and a strategic “To-Do list” for the transatlantic alliance in the coming years. Writes researcher at EUROPEUM Institute **Danielle Piatkiewicz** and senior analyst at the Polish Institute of International Affairs **Mateusz M. Piotrowski**. Read more [here](#).

Blog | Revolution on the roads: Will we all drive on batteries?



The blog focuses on the impact of internal combustion engines on transport emissions and the transition to electromobility as a key measure to reduce emissions. The transport sector is the second largest CO2 emitter in the EU, with passenger cars accounting for 60% of emissions. The European Union has decided to end the sale of new vehicles with internal combustion engines by 2035 and is promoting the switch to electromobility as a means to achieve climate neutrality by 2050. In the blog, **Zuzana Vlachová**, an intern at EUROPEUM's Prague office, discusses the benefits and challenges of the plan, including its environmental, economic and social impacts, as well as the reactions of the automotive industry and concerns about competitiveness. Read more [here](#).

Blog | The gender dimension of EU development policy: The Case of Namibia



Namibia has the largest gender gap in Africa. This blog analyses the European Union's development policy focusing on the gender dimension. Critics argue that the European Union's focus on gender equality in development policy is superficial; the blog also examines whether this criticism remains valid. **Simona Krammerová** in her blog also highlights key issues facing women in Namibia. Read more [here](#).

Blog | Disposable e-cigarettes - formerly a cessation aid, today a major environmental burden



The problem of disposable electronic cigarettes, also known as vapes, is the subject of a blog by **Zuzana Augustová**. In it, the author describes the negative health effects, noting the easily addictive nature, especially for young people. She also looks at the environmental impact of these products, as they are made up of materials that cannot be easily recycled, and throwing them in the garbage can cause fires and leaks of harmful substances. It then uses the example of the UK to show how the government is attempting to tackle the problem through legislation, including a planned ban on their sale. Read more [here](#).

In the media

- ČRo | Enlargement of the European Union to the Western Balkans ([Viktor Daněk](#))
- Ekonomický deník | European Commission tackles aviation fuels and emissions trading. Only 20 percent of them are charged ([Filip Křenek](#))
- ČRo Plus | The new ETS2 emission allowance system and its functioning ([Filip Křenek](#))
- ČT24 | The government's aim to postpone and modify the new emissions trading system ([Rebeka Hengalová](#))
- Czech Radio | Trees vs. heat waves: how cities can use green infrastructure to combat climate change ([Katarína Svitková](#))
- Euractiv.cz | Commission proposes stricter rules for car recycling. They should contain at least 25% recycled plastics ([Filip Křenek](#))
- TV Nova | Europe is looking for a leader ([Viktor Daněk](#))
- ČRo Plus | From next year, the Schengen area should be extended to Bulgaria and Romania, including along the land border ([Viktor Daněk](#))
- ČT24 | Negotiations on the full admission of Bulgaria and Romania to the Schengen area ([Viktor Daněk](#))
- bne IntelliNews | Czechs opt for nuclear option ([Rebeka Hengalová](#), [Filip Křenek](#))
- Respekt | Jourová is banal evil, Musk said. I defended half a billion Europeans, argues the former commissioner ([Viktor Daněk](#))
- ČRo Plus | The European Union and Mercosur have concluded a free trade agreement. Parts of the European Union don't like it ([Viktor Daněk](#))
- Radio Prostor | France and Germany are in a political crisis. How will this affect the EU? ([Tereza Novotná](#))
- 5:59 | Botched coup: How the shock in Seoul surprised the world ([Tereza Novotná](#))
- ČT24 | South Korean president surprises the country with martial law ([Tereza Novotná](#))
- iRozhlas.cz | 'We look at him as a fool with power.' Protests could speed up South Korean president's impeachment ([Tereza Novotná](#))
- Radio Prostor | Martial law in South Korea. How can we take the President's argument about preserving democracy? ([Tereza Novotná](#))
- Respekt | The South Korean president tested his authoritarian tendencies but failed. Will he face impeachment? ([Tereza Novotná](#))
- Tagesschau | South Korea's president imposed martial law and then lifted it ([Tereza Novotná](#))
- Hospodářské noviny | Martial law is a shock for everyone. South Korean president had a lot of problems at home that were not visible abroad ([Tereza Novotná](#))



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