Bruegel is registered as a Belgian international non-profit association (Association Internationale Sans But Lucratif) under the number 0867636096, with registered offices at rue de la Charité 33, B-1210 Brussels. The basis for its governance is found in its statute and bylaws.

Bruegel is a European think tank specialising in economics. Established in 2005, Bruegel is independent and non-doctrinal. Its mission is to improve the quality of economic policy with open and evidence-based research, analysis and debate.

Rue de la Charité 33
1210 Brussels, Belgium
Tel: +32 2 227 4210
Fax: +32 2 227 4219
www.bruegel.org           @bruegel_org
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The European economy continued to grow in 2018, despite a slowdown at the end of the year, and employment is at a new high. But there can be no doubt that the global trade tensions and broader geopolitical threats are sources of concern for the European economy. We must not forget that the European economy is significantly more open than the economies of the United States or Japan, and would therefore suffer more should a substantial spread of protectionism materialise. The still-unresolved Brexit question and the Italian political and economic situation were, among many other issues, top items in the European debate in 2018. Also, finding concrete answers to open questions, such as about crypto assets and the pursuit and achievement of financial integration, are very important for the future of Europe.

Bruegel scholars have offered their expertise on these issues and have thought deeply in order to shape the big debates on the future of Europe. The important and difficult questions of the ongoing reform of the euro area, how to increase the European Union's growth potential and how to foster inclusive and sustainable convergence were at the core of Bruegel's work in 2018. The EU must make its institutions more effective and further significantly improve its economic competitiveness to be able to credibly carve its own path.

As we move forward, I can hardly think of an organisation better placed than Bruegel to advance the debate on all these issues, bringing to the table evidence-based analysis that contributes to the goal of sustainable and equitable outcomes.

Bruegel is a professional, independent, transparent and evidence-based think-tank that is non-partisan in
policy discussions. We are determined to preserve our impartiality as we approach 2019’s policy challenges and to continue to strengthen our impact in the public debate and our outreach beyond Brussels policy circles. In 2018, we achieved around 6500 media mentions across the world, almost doubling the impact of the previous year.

Let me finish with some words of appreciation. On behalf of all my colleagues on the board, who I thank for their own personal dedication, I would like to recognise the extremely valuable support of our members, friends and partners, who help Bruegel to remain a world-class institution. Let me thank all Bruegel scholars and the entire team for their outstanding work. Last but not least, let me thank Bruegel’s director, deputy director and management team, under whose leadership Bruegel has again been ranked the second top international economics think-tank worldwide, the second think-tank worldwide with outstanding policy-oriented research programmes, and the second think-tank in the world (non-US), in the University of Pennsylvania’s Global GoTo Think Tank Index.
FOREWORD BY THE DIRECTOR

Guntram B. Wolff

It became clear in 2018 that the biggest issue Europe faces is how the geopolitical landscape has changed. A ‘G2 world’, characterised by a broad geopolitical confrontation between the United States and China, has become a reality. Five years ago, the extent to which Sino-US relations would deteriorate was not yet obvious. Five years ago, it was also less clear than now that the European Union would have to define clearly its own way forward.

Bruegel will continue to work to develop a proactive European strategy to deal with this geopolitical challenge. One key aspect is trade policy. The EU will have to continue to find ways to confront US assertiveness, reacting to legitimate criticism while working with partners on the reform of the World Trade Organisation. A second aspect is how to respond to the challenge from an increasingly competitive and bold China. Here, the EU will have to respond by boosting its own innovative capacity while ensuring a level playing field and limiting the damage from unfair competition. However, the line between protecting and protectionism is a fine one. Bruegel’s research will therefore focus on a comprehensive analysis of trade, competition, innovation and industrial policy and their interactions.

These topics are all the more important at a time when the EU must prioritise inclusive and sustainable growth. Decarbonising the EU’s economy is a huge societal challenge – and an opportunity for change. Doing so in an inclusive way, avoiding major negative social fallout, is absolutely crucial if decarbonisation is to happen.
We look back at a successful year with more than 70 publications, more than 200 blog posts, almost 50 podcasts and 90 events. Our media impact increased substantially in 2018. Bruegel also organised a major international think-tank conference with more than 150 participants from 53 countries. I would like to thank our secretary general and the entire management team for their work in putting together this major event. I would like to thank all staff for having made 2018 a year during which we have shaped economic policy debates.

Rest assured that our team of more than 30 researchers and 60 staff members is committed to striving for innovative ideas, practical suggestions and cutting-edge events that will stimulate and shape debates that improve economic policy. Also on behalf of Bruegel’s deputy director, I want to thank all members, partners and colleagues for having made 2018 a successful year and I look forward to continuing the work in 2019.
A STRUCTURED VISION

Matrix and design
Bruegel scholars use data-driven analysis based on rigorous applications of theory to assess economic processes, discuss policy options and make proposals. We keep an eye on their feasibility but we do not limit our interventions by political red lines. Bruegel does not stand for any particular policy doctrine or political dogma.

Bruegel’s researchers and diverse stakeholders, including members, collaboratively design the research programme. The board takes the final decision on the research programme based on a proposal by the director and deputy director. Once a topic or question is chosen, the research team works independently. All publications are released under the signature of their authors. Bruegel takes no institutional standpoint. The director exercises editorial oversight and quality control.
Bruegel scholars address policy areas relevant to individual countries, the European Union, global governance groups and international organisations. Interactions with decision-makers take place at every governance level and in many parts of the world.

Bruegel provides a forum for informed policy discussions between individuals from diverse backgrounds and sectors through publications, events, social media and its blog. Bruegel also cooperates with leading European and international research institutions on specific research projects or exchange programmes.
Independence and integrity are essential for the credibility of any think-tank. Transparify, an independent NGO, has repeatedly awarded Bruegel five stars out of five for transparency, recognising its openness about financing and governance. However, transparency is about more than just money.

Bruegel’s statement on research integrity, adopted by the board in May 2006, is available on our website. The statement sets out rules for the avoidance of political, national or commercial conflicts of interest, which could harm the integrity of Bruegel’s research. It helps staff and scholars avoid capture by any particular interests. Bruegel researchers and senior staff promise to abide by this statement when they sign contracts with Bruegel.

Scholars and managers also make an annual declaration of outside interests, which is available on the Bruegel website. These interests are not just financial: it is important for readers to be aware of other potential influences on a scholar’s work. These public declarations are extensive in the areas they cover and represent the highest standard in public transparency for think-tanks.

Every three years the scientific council delivers an evaluation report on the academic value of Bruegel's publications. This report informs the research strategy and
serves as a basis for the work of the review task force, an independent group appointed by members every three years to evaluate all aspects of Bruegel’s work, from research to management.

Finally, Bruegel’s commitment to transparency means that we publish detailed financial statements every year (see page 94). Our accounts are independently audited. We detail the origin of every cent of income, and we also report spending along nine spending lines. The financial statements clearly show what every member contributed in any given year, a level of transparency that is rare in our sector. State members of Bruegel also have the right to audit Bruegel at any time.
The team includes senior fellows and non-resident fellows, research fellows and affiliate fellows. Research fellows have several years of professional experience while senior fellows as well as non-resident fellows are highly recognized scholars with usually significant experience in policymaking. Affiliate fellows are typically younger scholars still working on their PhD.

Bruegel strives for a geographically diverse team. Visiting fellows add to this diversity, coming from internationally recognised institutes to stay at Bruegel temporarily to conduct research work. They interact with other fellows, members and a wider audience.

Fellows rely on a team of research assistants and research interns whose skills and commitment are gratefully acknowledged.

A dedicated non-research team is responsible for the daily management, outreach and development of the organisation.
RESEARCH TEAM

Bruegel relies on a research team that is both international and diverse in its expertise
Suman's writing includes contributions on the political economy of reform, financial sector and banking reform and energy trends and policy. He used to be Shell’s chief economist. He is currently also Senior Fellow of the Mastercard Center for Inclusive Growth. He is based in New Delhi. Suman had earlier served as Director-General (Chief Executive) of the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER), New Delhi. At various times Suman was a member of the prime minister’s Economic Advisory Council, of India’s Statistical Commission and of the Reserve Bank of India’s Technical Advisory Committee on Monetary Policy.

René is Head of Department ‘Markets and Perspectives’ at WIK Consult in Bad Honnef, Germany. He holds a PhD in Consumer Behaviour from the University of Edinburgh and has previously worked at the Cologne Institute for Economic Research. Throughout his career, he has advocated an evidence-based behavioural approach to policy and economic issues revolving around the use of ICT and digitisation. He has served in various roles advising the ITU as well as various European and national institutions.

Agnès is Professor at the Paris School of Economics - University of Paris 1 Panthéon Sorbonne. Prior, she was the Executive Chair of the French Council of economic analysis. She worked for the French ministry of economy and finance, before moving to academic positions successively at the universities of Cergy-Pontoise, Lille 2, Paris-Ouest and École Polytechnique. She also served as a Deputy-director and as a Director of CEPII and is affiliated with CESifo and IZA. She is a Member of the Commission économique de la Nation (an advisory body to the finance minister) of the French macro-prudential authority and of the Banque de France’s Board.

Carlo’s research focuses on international trade and investment, the political economy of globalisation and the process of European integration. He is associate professor of economics of European integration at Bocconi University, and professor of macroeconomics and international business environment at SDA Bocconi School of Management. He received his PhD in applied economics at the Catholic University of Leuven.
Uri works mainly on trends in the global economy and on how countries deal with the challenge of international integration through flows of trade, finance, and migration. He is a non-resident scholar at Bruegel, based in Washington, DC and a senior fellow at the Policy Center for the New South. He is also the principal of Economic Policy International, LLC. He teaches at the School of Public Policy at the University of Maryland and at the École des Hautes Études Commerciales (HEC) and the Mohammed VI Polytechnic. He is a co-chair of the Trade, Investment and Globalization Task-Force of the T20. He was vice-chair of the Global Agenda Council on Trade and Investment at the World Economic Forum.

Grégory’s research interests include international macroeconomics and finance, central banking and European governance. From 2006 to 2009 Grégory worked as an economist in the research department of the French bank Crédit Agricole. Grégory is an associate professor at the Conservatoire National des Arts et Métiers in Paris where he teaches macroeconomics. He previously taught undergraduate macroeconomics at Sciences Po in Paris. He holds a PhD in economics from the European University Institute (Florence), an MSc in economics from Paris X University and an MSc in management from HEC (Paris).

Marek focuses on economic reforms and prospects in Russia, Ukraine and central Europe. He is a professor at the Higher School of Economics in Moscow and was a fellow under the 2014-2015 fellowship initiative of the European Commission. He was previously first deputy minister of finance of Poland, a member of the Polish Parliament and a member of the Monetary Policy Council of the National Bank of Poland.

Rebecca was a political correspondent in Brussels for Bloomberg News from 2011 to 2016. From 2017 to early 2019 she has been a consultant to the European Stability Mechanism, and during part of that time she also served as an expert adviser to a European Economic and Social Committee panel on taxation. During a 22-year career in daily journalism, Rebecca wrote for a broad range of newspapers and wire services, from the Bend (Oregon) Bulletin to the UK-based Financial Times. She was a Washington correspondent for 7 years with Dow Jones Newswires and the Wall Street Journal, covering the U.S. Treasury, the Federal Reserve and the Pentagon.
Alicia is a senior fellow at Bruegel and she is also the chief economist for the Asia Pacific region at NATIXIS, based in Hong Kong. Alicia is currently an adjunct professor at City University of Hong Kong and Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST). Alicia holds a PhD in economics from George Washington University. Previous positions include Chief Economist for Emerging Markets at BBVA, and senior positions at the BIS, the Bank of Spain, the European Central Bank, and Economist at the International Monetary Fund. She has published extensively in journals and books.

Maria is the deputy director of Bruegel. She has previously worked at the European Commission and the research department of the Dutch Central Bank. She has also held academic positions at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government in the USA and the University of Strathclyde in the UK, from where she holds a PhD in economics. She has published extensively in international academic journals and contributed regularly to both the European Commission’s and the Dutch Central Bank’s policy outlets.

Zsolt’s research interests include macroeconomics, international economics, central banking and time-series analysis. He is also a research fellow at the Institute of Economics of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. From 2005 to 2008, he was a research adviser to the Argenta Financial Research Group in Budapest. Zsolt holds a PhD in economics from Corvinus University of Budapest. From 1994 to 2005, he worked in the research department of the Central Bank of Hungary, where he was deputy head.

Maria is the deputy director of Bruegel. She has previously worked at the European Commission and the research department of the Dutch Central Bank. She has also held academic positions at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government in the USA and the University of Strathclyde in the UK, from where she holds a PhD in economics. She has published extensively in international academic journals and contributed regularly to both the European Commission’s and the Dutch Central Bank’s policy outlets.

Konstantinos holds a master’s in International Economics and International Relations from the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS), where he specialised in Quantitative Methods and European Studies. Before joining Bruegel, he was at the European Commission, as a Blue Book Trainee in the Cabinet of President Juncker. He also interned at the Central Bank of Luxembourg (BCL) as a research assistant, and was involved in projects related to the Wage Dynamics Network (WDN) research group.

Alicia is a senior fellow at Bruegel and she is also the chief economist for the Asia Pacific region at NATIXIS, based in Hong Kong. Alicia is currently an adjunct professor at City University of Hong Kong and Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST). Alicia holds a PhD in economics from George Washington University. Previous positions include Chief Economist for Emerging Markets at BBVA, and senior positions at the BIS, the Bank of Spain, the European Central Bank, and Economist at the International Monetary Fund. She has published extensively in journals and books.
Henrik focuses on economic aspects of trade law and competition law. He is a senior research fellow at the Research Institute of Industrial Economics, Stockholm, and chief reporter for an American Law Institute project on the Principles of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) Agreement. Previously, he held positions as professor of International Economics at Stockholm University, as a judge in the Swedish supreme court for competition law cases, and worked for four years at the Economic Research and Analysis Division of the WTO.

Mark writes on fiscal governance, tax competition, and exchange rate choice. He is a professor of Public Management and Political Economy at the Hertie School of Governance and is director of Hertie’s Fiscal Governance Centre. He has previously held professorships at Emory University, the University of Pittsburgh, and the Georgia Institute of Technology.

Inês’ research interests include political economy, monetary and fiscal policy and applied macroeconomics. Previously she worked for the Financial Stability Department of the Bank of Portugal. Inês holds a MSc in economics from Nova SBE with a major in Macroeconomics and Financial Markets, and a BA in applied mathematics from the University of Lisbon.

Mathew focuses his research on competition policy. Most recently Mathew was vice-president at Qualcomm, where for almost a decade he advised the company on competition policy, intellectual property rights, industrial policy and regulation. Mathew is also active at the OECD Competition Committee and is a non-governmental advisor to the International Competition Network. He is also a committee member of the EU Law Group of the Honourable Society of Lincoln’s Inn and member of the Editorial Board of the IBA’s Competition Law International.

Henrik focuses on economic aspects of trade law and competition law. He is a senior research fellow at the Research Institute of Industrial Economics, Stockholm, and chief reporter for an American Law Institute project on the Principles of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) Agreement. Previously, he held positions as professor of International Economics at Stockholm University, as a judge in the Swedish supreme court for competition law cases, and worked for four years at the Economic Research and Analysis Division of the WTO.
Dalia’s research interests are in international economics, corporate finance and the organisation of the firm, and emerging market economies. She holds the chair in international economics at the University of Munich. Dalia is a fellow of the Centre for Economic Policy Research (CEPR), London, and a member of the International Trade and Organization Working Group of the National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER) in Cambridge. She has been team leader at the Russian European Center for Economic Policy in Moscow and has acted as a consultant for international organisations.

Pia’s research interests include macroeconomics, international economics and European political economy. She holds a bachelor’s degree in European economics and a master’s degree in international economics from the University of Rome Tor Vergata. She also holds a master’s degree in European political economy from the London School of Economics and is currently enrolled in a PhD programme at Humboldt University in Berlin.

Alex is an expert in financial regulation, pension systems and trade policies. He was the lead economist with the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) in Warsaw. Previously, Alex was with the Policy Review Department of the International Monetary Fund in Washington, acted as consultant for the World Trade Organisation and the central Bank of Mexico, and worked in research and teaching positions at the Royal Institute of International Affairs (Chatham House) and the London School of Economics. He holds a PhD in economics from Oxford University.

Scott is an expert in policy and regulatory issues related to digital services and electronic communications. His recent Bruegel research has focused on the European Digital Single Market (DSM), with particular emphasis on cross-border e-commerce, privacy, and geo-blocking. He made contributions to the European Commission’s proposed European Electronic Communications Code (EECC). He is a member of the Scientific Committee of the Communications and Media Programme of the Florence School of Regulation, European University Institute, in Fiesole, Italy. Scott holds a BA in political science (public administration) from the City College of New York, and an MS from the School of Engineering, Columbia University.

Dalia’s research interests are in international economics, corporate finance and the organisation of the firm, and emerging market economies. She holds the chair in international economics at the University of Munich. Dalia is a fellow of the Centre for Economic Policy Research (CEPR), London, and a member of the International Trade and Organization Working Group of the National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER) in Cambridge. She has been team leader at the Russian European Center for Economic Policy in Moscow and has acted as a consultant for international organisations.
Emmanuel’s research ranges across a variety of topics in European and international economic relations, including European monetary integration, the development of Western European financial regulation in the 1960s-1980s, and the rise of the European Council. He is Lord Kelvin Adam Smith fellow in the Adam Smith Business School, University of Glasgow. Prior to this, he was Pinto Post-Doctoral fellow at LSE IDEAS, the London School of Economics’ centre for the study of international affairs. He is also visiting professor at the Université Libre de Bruxelles.

From Bruegel to MIT

My transition from Bruegel to MIT’s digital lab could be described as a transition from a high-quality economic policy environment to a more technology-oriented one. In the former I was taught how to set and try to answer key policy questions following a fact-based approach. In the latter, I am getting better insights on how technology works in practice and what its realised economic benefits are. The knowledge I accumulated in both institutions is rewarding and complementary: on the one side, you need to go deep into the function and performance of digital/AI (eco-)systems if you wish to assess the associated policy challenges. On the other side, you also need to have a good knowledge of policy options in order to define the best possible way in which technology can maximise welfare.

Georgios Petropoulos
André’s research focuses on international trade, European governance, and global and European macroeconomics. He is a professor of economics at the Université Libre de Bruxelles. He was previously an economic adviser to the president of the European Commission, and a chair of the scientific council of the European Systemic Risk Board. In 2004 he published “An Agenda for a Growing Europe”, a report for the president of the Commission by a group of independent experts that is known as the Sapir report. André holds a PhD in economics from Johns Hopkins University. He is also a research fellow of the Centre for Economic Policy Research (CEPR).

Jean is an expert on European macroeconomics, governance and international economics. He is a professor at European University Institute (EUI), Sciences Po Paris and the Hertie School of Governance in Berlin. He was the director for programme and ideas of Emmanuel Macron’s successful presidential campaign in France. From 2013 to 2017, he served as commissioner-general of France Stratégie, the ideas lab of the French government. From 2005 to 2013, he was the director of Bruegel, towards whose creation he had contributed. Before founding Bruegel, he was executive president of the French PM’s Council of Economic Analysis (2001-2002), senior economic adviser to the French minister of finance (1997-2000), director of CEPII, the French institute for international economics (1992-1997), and economic adviser with the European Commission (1989-92).

Elina is an expert in financial markets, emerging economies and central banking. She has an extensive career in finance at Citigroup, Amundi (a large European asset manager), Avantium (an emerging-markets-dedicated hedge fund) and most recently as managing director of research at Deutsche Bank. Prior to that, Elina worked for nine years in policymaking at the International Monetary Fund in Washington DC, where she was involved in several programme countries in Europe, Asia and Africa.

Jörg is an expert on corporate finance and governance, and financial intermediation. He is professor and president of ESMT European School of Management and Technology in Berlin and a member of the economic advisory board of the German Federal Ministry of Finance. He is also the deputy chairman of the economic advisory board of the Deutsche Welle, research professor at the Ifo Institute in Munich, and Duisenberg fellow of the European Central Bank (ECB).
Nicolas’ research is about financial systems and financial reform around the world, including global financial regulatory initiatives and current developments in the European Union, banking supervision and crisis management, financial reporting, the euro-area policy framework and economic nationalism. He was a co-founder of Bruegel in 2002. He joined the Peterson Institute as a visiting fellow in 2009 and divides his time between the US and Europe. He is a board member of the derivatives arm (Global Trade Repository) of the Depositary Trust and Clearing Corporation (DTCC), a financial infrastructure company that operates globally on a non-profit basis.

Dirk has published research on central banking, financial supervision and stability, European financial integration and climate change. He is a professor of banking and finance at Rotterdam School of Management, Erasmus University Rotterdam. He is also a member of the Advisory Scientific Committee of the European Systemic Risk Board at the ECB and a research fellow at the Centre for European Policy Research (CEPR). Dirk was dean of the Duisenberg School of Finance from 2009 to 2015. From 1998 to 2008, he served at the Ministry of Finance in the Netherlands.

Simone is an expert in international energy and climate issues. Before joining Bruegel he spent a year in Istanbul as a visiting researcher at the Istanbul Policy Center at Sabancı University. He is also a senior researcher at the Fondazione Eni Enrico Mattei and adjunct professor at the John Hopkins University. He holds a master’s degree in international relations from the Faculty of Political and Social Sciences of the Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore in Milan, where he completed his PhD on European and Mediterranean energy relations at the department of international economics, institutions and development.

Bruno’s research focuses on the effectiveness of several policy tools (R&D subsidies, R&D tax credits, intellectual property, public research and regulatory policies) aimed at stimulating innovation in Europe. He was the chief economist of the European Patent Office (EPO) from November 2005 to the end of 2007. Since 1999 he has been a professor at the Université Libre de Bruxelles. As holder of the Solvay S.A. Chair of Innovation, he teaches courses related to the economics and management of innovation and intellectual property.
Jianwei Xu
Non-Resident Fellow

Jianwei’s research mainly focuses on international economics and labour economics. He is particularly interested in topics related to China’s economic transformation and foreign relationship. Xu is an associate professor at Beijing Normal University, and also works as an affiliate fellow at China Academy of Social Science and a youth member of the China Finance Forum 40. Prior to this, he completed an internship at the Development Research Center of the State Council in China as a research assistant. He holds a PhD from Peking University.

Reinilde Veugelers
Senior Fellow

Reinilde’s research focuses on industrial organisation, international economics and strategy, innovation, and science. She is a full-time professor at the Catholic University of Leuven in the Department of Management, Strategy and Innovation. She has been a senior fellow at Bruegel since 2009. She is also a CEPR research fellow and a member of the Royal Flemish Academy of Belgium for Sciences. From 2004-2008, she was an adviser for the European Commission’s Bureau of European Policy Analysis (BEPA). She was the president-elect of EARIE (European Association for Research in Industrial Economics) and she also served on the ERC Scientific Council.

Thomas Wieser
Non-Resident Fellow

Thomas is an expert on EU economic policies, financial stability and European governance. He joined Bruegel in February 2018, previously he was president of the Euro Working Group and of the European Financial Committee of the European Union. He previously chaired the Committee between March 2009 and March 2011. Before becoming president of the EWG/EFC, he was director general for Economic Policy and Financial Markets in the Ministry of Finance, Vienna. He is currently also chairing a Wise Persons Group mandated by the Council to review the European Financial Architecture for Development.

Guntram Wolff
Director

Guntram is the director of Bruegel. His research focuses on the European economy and governance, fiscal and monetary policy and global finance. He regularly testifies to the European finance ministers’ informal ECOFIN meeting, the European Parliament, and national parliaments. During 2012-16, he was a member of the French prime minister’s economic advisory council. He joined Bruegel from the European Commission, where he worked on the macroeconomics and governance of the euro area and the Deutsche Bundesbank. He is also a fellow of the Centre for Economic Policy Research (CEPR). Guntram holds a PhD in economics from the University of Bonn and has taught in Pittsburgh and Brussels.

Jianwei Xu
Non-Resident Fellow

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Senior Fellow

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Georg's work at Bruegel focuses on energy and climate-change issues. He is also an expert on Ukraine. He is a member of the German Advisory Group in Ukraine and the German Economic Team in Belarus and Moldova.Previously, he worked at the German Ministry of Finance and the German Institute for Economic Research in Berlin. He has worked on the EU emissions trading system, the European electricity market and European renewables policy. In addition, he covers fuel and commodity markets. Georg holds a PhD from the Technical University of Dresden, and a diploma in economics from Humboldt University, Berlin.

Stavros' research focuses on sovereign debt issues. During 2013-2014 he was vice-chairman of the Cyprus Council of Economic Advisors and served on the Board of the Central Bank of Cyprus (2014-2015). He served as president of UNICA-Universities of European Capitals (2004-2012) and as rector of the University of Cyprus (2002-2010). He is a professor of finance and management science at University of Cyprus. He received a PhD in engineering management systems from Princeton University. He also studied mathematics at University of London and electrical engineering with the Higher Technical Institute in Cyprus.
As of March 2019

DIRECTOR
Guntram B. Wolff

DEPUTY-DIRECTOR
Maria Demertzis

SCHOLARS
Jochen Andritzky, visiting fellow (until September 2018)
Carlo Altomonte, non-resident fellow
René Arnold, non-resident fellow
Peyman Asadi, visiting fellow (until January 2019)
Agnès Bénassy-Quéré, non-resident fellow
Suman Bery, non-resident fellow
Grégory Claeys, resident fellow
Marek Dabrowski, non-resident fellow
Uri Dadush, non-resident fellow
Zsolt Darvas, senior fellow
Konstantinos Efstatiiou, affiliate fellow
Alicia García-Herrero, senior fellow
Inês Gonçalves Raposo, affiliate fellow
Mark Hallerberg, non-resident fellow
Henrik Horn, non-resident fellow
Pia Hüttl, affiliate fellow
Alexander Lehmann, non-resident fellow
J. Scott Marcus, senior fellow
Dalia Marin, non-resident fellow
Silvia Merler, affiliate fellow (until December 2018)
Emmanuel Mourlon-Druol, non-resident fellow
Francesco Papadia, senior fellow
Georgios Petropoulos, resident fellow
Jean Pisani-Ferry, senior fellow
Elina Ribakova, visiting fellow
Jörg Rocholl, non-resident fellow
André Sapir, senior fellow
Dirk Schoenmaker, non-resident fellow
Adriaan Schout, visiting fellow
Simone Tagliapietra, resident fellow
Alessio Terzi, affiliate fellow
Bruno van Pottelsberghe, non-resident fellow
Reinhilde Veugelers, senior fellow
Nicolas Véron, senior fellow
Thomas Wieser, non-resident fellow
Jianwei Xu, non-resident fellow
Georg Zachmann, senior fellow
Stavros Zenios, non-resident fellow

Bruegel is also grateful all those who worked at Bruegel during 2018:
Non-research staff: Eleftheria Avazou, Cécile Lavis.
Non-research interns: Markus Buderath, Sarah Cool-Fergus, Kevin Mendonça,
João Moreira de Almeida Santos Carvalho, Gaurav Sandha.
Research interns: Shivali Pandya, Rachel Bagnall, Daniel Huang, Nicholas Kingsley, Laura Sussman, Bowen Call.

MANAGEMENT TEAM
Guntram B. Wolff
Director
Maria Demertzis
Deputy director
Matt Dann
Secretary general
Paola Maniga
Head of development
Giuseppe Porcaro
Head of communications and events

NON-RESEARCH TEAM
Makfire Alija
HR & payroll officer
Alessandro Borsello
Online communication officer
Pauline Chetail
Public funding manager
Chloé De Meulenaer
Development intern
Alexandra Fernández Mañas
Administrative Assistant
Stephen Gardner
Editor
Sean Gibson
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Zuzanna Gwadera
Communications and Events Intern
Zouhir Khellili
Junior accountant
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Events coordinator
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Executive office coordinator
Matilda Sevón
Deputy head of communications and events
Scarlett Varga
Deputy head of development
MAXIMISING IMPACT
In tune with current affairs
Bruegel’s mission is to improve economic policy. This ultimately means persuading policymakers to consider and take on board the research and suggestions of Bruegel scholars. Being present in public debates is a cornerstone of our strategy. Through our publications, social media, blog, podcasts, events and press outreach, Bruegel has carved out a discussion space for economic policy.

AWARDS AND RANKINGS

#2 TOP INTERNATIONAL ECONOMICS THINK TANK WORLDWIDE
#2 THINK TANKS WITH OUTSTANDING POLICY-ORIENTED RESEARCH PROGRAMS
#2 BEST THINK TANK IN THE WORLD (NON US)
#3 BEST MANAGED THINK TANK WORLDWIDE
#5 THINK TANKS WITH THE MOST SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON PUBLIC POLICY

2018 Global Go To Think Tank Report, University of Pennsylvania

Bruegel was awarded ★★★★★★ FOR TRANSPARENCY (TRANSPARIFY)
Our diverse editorial output is tailored to reach different audiences:

**BLOG POSTS**

207

Timely analysis on the latest developments in economic policy. It has become a reference for policymakers, influencers and journalists.

**PUBLICATIONS**

72

From Policy Briefs and Policy Contributions aimed primarily at a policy audience to academic working papers, and books.

**PODCASTS**

48

The Sound of Economics brings our scholars’ research to a wider audience by contributing to topical economic policy debates.
MEDIA OUTREACH

Shaping the debate

TOP 10 NEWS TOPICS
BRUEGEL RESEARCH WAS MENTIONED FOR:

- Trade
- Brexit
- Italian economy
- Greek debt
- Cryptocurrencies
- Italian elections
- Eurozone reforms
- Euro internationalisation
- Banking regulation
- EU budget

+68% MEDIA MENTIONS IN 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Mentions</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>3,850</td>
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<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>6,476</td>
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</table>
As a journalist, my aim is to offer our readers the added value of good information. Bruegel is always my first choice when searching for experts who are capable of interpreting reality globally and accurately. Thanks to their knowledge and expertise I can find out new angles.

Álvaro Sánchez
El País correspondent in Brussels

Jennifer Rankin
The Guardian correspondent in Brussels

AUTHORITATIVE AND INSIGHTFUL

I always value talking to Bruegel scholars for their authoritative and insightful views on European Union politics and policies.
WHERE POLICIES MEET FACT-BASED RESEARCH

Bruegel’s ability to bring together policy-influential people, in Brussels and beyond, means that our events achieve several strategic goals: helping to set the policy agenda, exploring pragmatic solutions to political impasses, and analysing the policy relevance of current economic research.

Our different event formats address different needs. Smaller meetings help inform our research, while larger conferences offer space for debate and the chance to hold officials to account. Many events bring together parties that would not ordinarily have a chance to exchange ideas.

WE ORGANISED 90 EVENTS AND REACHED OUT TO 32,000 PEOPLE ALSO THROUGH ONLINE LIVESTREAM, AUDIO AND VIDEO RECORDINGS.
MOVERS & SHAKERS
AT BRUEGEL’S EVENTS IN 2018

CONFERENCES

A forum for a wider audience, bringing together parties that would not ordinarily have a chance to exchange ideas, a space for debate holding officials to account.

SEMINARS

High level policymakers, stakeholders, Bruegel members and experts engage in frank discussions to explore pragmatic solutions to political impasses.

WORKSHOPS

Our members and scholars get together with other experts to contribute to ongoing research or brainstorm about timely issues.
Bruegel hosted the Global Think Tank Summit from November 7th-9th 2018, a yearly gathering initiated by the Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program of the University of Pennsylvania (TTCSP).

The Summit brought together leading think-tanks from around the world, thus fostering global co-operation and exchange of best practice among think-tank executives.

It featured a mix of formal events, addressing specific topics of interest to think-tanks (ranging from policy
to management issues), and informal ones, allowing participants to network and exchange on their respective practice.

145 people participated in the summit, representing 106 think-tanks from 53 countries in Africa, Asia, Europe, North and Latin America. The event was supported by the Vision Europe partners and the Open Society Foundation.
Bruegel values gender equality and is committed to improving gender balance in different forms. Over the past few years, we have aimed to improve gender diversity in our leadership roles, in hiring new staff and in securing female representation at events.

Bruegel is an active supporter of ‘The Brussels Binder’, a database of female experts aimed at improving gender diversity in EU policy debates. Bruegel provides support through the involvement of several members of Bruegel’s staff in the initiative’s steering committee and Board.

More recently Bruegel, in a consortium with the Brussels Binder and the German Marshall Fund, won funding from the European Commission (DG Justice) to support the creation of new databases and create a pan-European community of organisations sharing similar values to take the Brussels Binder beyond Brussels.

In 2018, Bruegel reached a share of 31% for female speakers at its events.
Bruegel scholars spoke at the European Parliament and at numerous national parliaments during the year. They also gave evidence to informal meetings of EU finance ministers.

- Belgium Federal Parliament
- European Parliament
- French Senate
- German Bundestag
- Sofia, Bulgaria, Informal ECOFIN
- Swedish Parliament
- UK House of Commons
- Vienna, Austria, Informal ECOFIN
LIST OF TESTIMONIES

Brexit: UK-EU movement of people, Zsolt Darvas. Written evidence submitted to the UK House of Lords Select Committee on the EU, Home Affairs Sub-Committee, 3 February

Bank liquidation in the European Union: clarification needed, Silvia Merler. Material provided at the request of the European Parliament Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs, 10 January

Franco-German relations facing the challenges of the EU, Guntram B. Wolff. Testimony of Bruegel’s director during the hearing of the Commissions for the EU and for foreign relations, defense and armed forces of the French Senate, 24 January

Note on the interactions between payment systems and monetary policy, Francesco Papadia. This paper was prepared for the committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs of the European Parliament (ECON) as an input for the monetary dialogue of 26 February 2018 between ECON and the President of the ECB, 26 February

Post-Brexit migration policy, Zsolt Darvas. Ordered by the Home Affairs Committee of the House of Commons, UK, 27 February

Future of EMU, Guntram B. Wolff. This testimony was presented at the Swedish Parliament’s Committee on Finance, 9 March

Cash outflows in crisis scenarios: do liquidity requirements and reporting obligations give the SRB sufficient time to react?, Alexander Lehmann. This material was originally published in a paper provided at the request of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs of the European Parliament and commissioned by the Directorate-General for Internal Policies of the Union and supervised by its Economic Governance Support Unit (EGOV), 26 March

Making a reality of Europe’s capital markets union, André Sapir, Nicolas Véron, Guntram B. Wolff. This paper was written at the request of the Bulgarian Presidency of the Council of the European Union for the informal ECOFIN meeting of EU finance ministers and central bank governors in Sofia, 27 April

EU funds for migration, asylum and integration policies, Francesco Chiacchio, Zsolt Darvas, Konstantinos Efstathiou, Inês Goncalves Raposo and Guntram B. Wolff. This study was requested by the European Parliament’s Committee on Budgets and presented at a joint hearing of the Committees on Budget (BUDG), Budgetary Control (CONT) and Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE) of the European Parliament, 23 May

Brexit and Energy Policy, Simone Tagliapietra and Georg Zachmann. Testimony before the European Parliament’s Committee on Industry, Research and Energy, 28 May

The potential impact of Brexit on ICT policy, J. Scott Marcus. Testimony before the European Parliament’s Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE), 27 June
Cryptocurrencies and monetary policy, Grégory Claeys, Maria Demertzis and Konstantinos Efstathiou. This paper was prepared for the committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs of the European Parliament (ECON) as an input for the monetary dialogue of 28 June 2018 between ECON and the President of the ECB, 28 June

The role of independent expertise in legislative process, Zsolt Darvas and J. Scott Marcus. Testimony before the European Parliament Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection (IMCO), 18 July


The economic potential and risks of crypto assets: is a regulatory framework needed?, Maria Demertzis and Guntram B. Wolff. This paper was written at the request of the Austrian Presidency of the Council of the European Union for the informal ECOFIN meeting of EU finance ministers and central bank governors, 6 September

Brexit and industry & space policy, Reinhilde Veugelers. Testimony before the European Parliament’s Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE), 25 September

Excess liquidity and bank lending risks in the euro area, Zsolt Darvas and David Pichler. This paper was prepared for the committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs of the European Parliament (ECON) as an input for the monetary dialogue of 26 September 2018 between ECON and the President of the ECB, 26 September

Transatlantic relations, Maria Demertzis. Testimony before the Belgian Federal Parliament (La commissions des Relations extérieures de la Chambre des représentants), 27 September

The EU – Japan Economic Partnership Agreement, André Sapir, Sonali Chowdhry and Alessio Terzi. This paper was requested by the European Parliament’s Committee on International Trade (INTA) and analyses the EU-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement (EUJEPA), 3 October

Transatlantic relations, Maria Demertzis. Testimony before the Committee for External Relations of the Belgium Federal Parliament, 2 November

A monetary policy framework for the European Central Bank to deal with uncertainty, Grégory Claeys, Maria Demertzis and Jan Mazza. This paper was prepared for the committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs of the European Parliament (ECON) as an input for the monetary dialogue of 22 November 2018 between ECON and the President of the ECB, 22 November

How to provide liquidity to banks after resolution in Europe’s banking union, Maria Demertzis, Inês Goncalves Raposo, Pia Hüttl and Guntram B. Wolff. This paper was provided at the request of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs of the European Parliament and commissioned by the Directorate-General for Internal Policies of the Union and supervised by its Economic Governance Support Unit (EGOV), 22 November
With a portfolio of 12 EU-funded research projects, Bruegel fellows regularly have the opportunity to provide expertise and exchange views with the EU institutions’ policymakers and engage in academic networks across Europe.

Bruegel provides regular briefings to the European Parliament, notably in the framework of the monetary dialogue with the European Central Bank and the parliamentary hearings of the Single Resolution Board’s chair. Periodically, Bruegel also delivers longer studies to the Parliament; for instance, in 2018, Bruegel fellows provided a thorough assessment of the EU-Japan
Partnership Agreement, and analysed how EU funds granted to migration, asylum and integration policies in Europe have been used under the current Multi-Annual Financial Framework. They also organised workshops held at the Parliament on the impact of Brexit on energy, ICT, industry and research policies.

Bruegel participates in four multi-annual research projects funded under the highly competitive Horizon 2020 programme, collaborating with top European academic institutions to tackle big policy challenges, such as designing emissions reduction policies (COP21 RIPPLES and PARIS REINFORCE projects), solving the productivity puzzle (MICROPROD project), and shaping the future of European integration and governance (EU3D project).
RESEARCH LANDSCAPE
Expanding the horizons
POLICY RELEVANCE
WITH ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

We are convinced that rigorous academic standards are conducive to high-quality policy recommendations. Bruegel scholars regularly publish in top academic outlets, and all significant Bruegel policy papers undergo a collective feedback process within the research team. Selected academic publications of our scholars are listed below:

Agur I and M. Demertzis


Claeys G. and G.B. Wolff


Consiglio A., Zenios S.A.


Veugelers, R. & J. Wang, (2019), Scientific Novelty and Technological Impact, Research Policy, accepted for publication.
In a changing and challenging political landscape, Bruegel scholars continue to suggest strategies to European and national policymakers on macro-economic and governance reform. From fiscal rules to euro-area governance. From ECB forecasting to the new challenges posed by cryptocurrencies to monetary policy. From trends in European public opinion around economic issues, to the modernisation of European and national budgets.

The research has been strongly connected to other areas. For example, analysing the EU’s macroeconomic policy stance could not be done in isolation from an analysis of the financial system and global issues like trade.
The limits of the current fiscal rules

Making the euro area more resilient

ECB forecasting errors

Crypto-currencies
The ECB has made huge and systematic forecasting errors in the past five years, indicating that some of the behavioural relationships in ECB forecasting models are mis-specified. If forecasting failures continue and core inflation does not approach two per cent, the ECB’s credibility will be undermined, making necessary a discussion on either the deployment of new tools to influence core inflation or a possible revision of the ECB’s inflation goal.

Zsolt Darvas

Who’s afraid of free movement?

As Zsolt Darvas of Bruegel has recently pointed out, support for intra-EU mobility is strongly on the rise. [...] According to an important report on EU migration Darvas and his Bruegel colleagues have just completed (which also covers non-EU immigrants and refugees), “cross-border mobility of EU citizens remains well below intra-country mobility within the United States and other large countries”.

FINANCIAL TIMES
THE LIMITS OF THE CURRENT FISCAL RULES

The coordination of fiscal policies in the euro area has received significant attention over many years. There is a growing awareness and consensus that European fiscal rules are complex, hard to manage in practice, and in dire need of reform. This also has an impact on the role the Commission plays, aided by years of passivity of the Council in these matters. I believe that we at Bruegel have contributed to this debate in a meaningful manner, helping to push policymakers to confront the need for better policies as well as better rules and governance.

Thomas Wieser
Making the euro area more resilient is the best defence against the divisive sword of nationalist economic powers. Nurtured by discussions at Bruegel, I developed ideas how to avert crises in the euro area through an ESM precautionary credit line and argued for institutional reforms to boost the euro’s international role.

Jochen Andritzky
Pushed by the work of the European Systemic Risk Board on Sovereign bond-backed securities (SBBS) and by the support of the European Commission, the debate on safe assets in the euro area was in full swing in 2018. I contributed to this debate and discussed the limited benefits of SBBS and put forward the conditions for sovereign bonds of euro-area member states to regain safe-asset status, focusing on the reform of the euro-area architecture, and in particular on the importance of the European Stability Mechanism toolkit, the European fiscal rules and the role of the European Central Bank collateral framework.

Grégory Claeys
Reforming the euro zone: A modest proposal

All this would be a step forward, says Guntram B. Wolff of Bruegel, a think-tank. But he thinks the reforms should go further. The French and Germans agreed to keep the governance of the bail-out fund unchanged. But it is too complicated. In order for it to be tapped, finance ministers must reach unanimous agreement. National laws mean that parliaments in some countries, notably Germany, must grant their approval. That could stop the fund winding down a failed bank swiftly over a weekend, as it may need to.
Europe Is in No Rush to Regulate Crypto Market

A report prepared for the Ecofin meeting by Bruegel’s scholars argued that “limiting the exposure of financial institutions” to cryptocurrencies would be “sensible.” It also said that it could be useful to try different national solutions in the EU before moving to a more harmonized approach with a single supervisor in charge.
The possibility of trade wars is no longer a distant threat. The US administration has implemented a number of measures and has announced a series of additional ones against a number of major trade partners around the world invoking national security considerations.

Bruegel scholars analyse how all this will play out in practice, and investigate the consequences beyond trade, on global economic governance. Also, we continued our research on China and the close EU neighbourhood. The questions on China have ranged from financial-market issues to trade strategies and the effect on Europe’s position in the world. On the neighbourhood we continued ongoing collaborations with neighbouring think-tanks and explored developments in third countries at European borders.
DE-DOLLARISATION: EURO FOR OIL

CHINA: BELT & ROAD

SOUTHERN & EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN

TARIFFS & TRADE

THE TRUMP PRESIDENCY
Hard Choices for Europe As U.S. and China Spar

Mr. Sapir of Bruegel argues that, longer term, Europe should push for reforms of the trade body to respond to American criticism that the organization is too slow moving, and has failed to curb unfair competition by China. Mr. Trump is unlikely to take much interest in fixing the global trade regime rather than ignoring it, Mr. Sapir said, but it’s still worth a try. “That is the only structural solution,” Mr. Sapir said. “Otherwise, we will always be caught in between.”

US IMPORT TARIFFS

It is sometimes argued that the increase in US import tariffs will be benign for the trade partners because the dollar will appreciate accordingly. This argument is weak, not just because exchange rates are rarely well behaved, but because import tariffs have much more impact than exchange rates on trade flows.

Agnès Bénassy-Quéré

The New York Times
Bruegel actively promotes a global dialogue between European and Asian policy experts and economists. The Asia-Europe Economic Forum is Bruegel’s leading initiative in Asia.

The yearly forum alternates between Asia and Europe and is jointly organised with the Centre d’Études Prospectives et d’Informations Internationales and the Bertelsmann Stiftung on the European side; the Asia-Europe Foundation, Asian Development Bank Institute, Peking University and Korea University on the Asian side.

It is an event only for invited speakers, who include former and current high-ranking officials, senior parliamentarians, central bank governors, prominent academics, and private-sector economists.

The 2018 AEEF took place in Brussels as an official side-event of the ASEM Summit.
Two parallel issues have clearly changed China’s external environment in 2018, the first and most obvious is the US-led trade war against China but another, somewhat more subtle – but just as disturbing – has been the backlash against China-led grand strategy, the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). Recent studies published by Bruegel look into the two issues, namely the impact of US-China trade war – and more generally strategic competition – on Europe and the options at our disposal. The second looks into the image of the Belt and Road Initiative in the world, including Europe and concludes that it is not because a country officially takes part in the project that it tends to have a better image of it – quite the opposite.

Alicia García-Herrero

TRADE IN 2018

The year 2018 was again eventful as far as EU trade policy was concerned. Three developments were particularly important. The first concerns the EU-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement (EUJEPA), which entered into force in February 2019. EUJEPA is the largest bilateral trade deal ever concluded by the EU in terms of market size. The second development was the decision, in March 2018, by US President Trump to impose additional tariffs on steel and aluminium on most of its trading partners, including the EU. These tariffs are still in place in March 2019. The third development was another decision by President Trump. In April 2018, he imposed additional tariffs on a wide range of imports from China, on the grounds that China’s policies and practices related to technology transfer, intellectual property and innovation are hurting US vital interests. These measures were followed by retaliatory measures by China and further measures by the US, resulting in a trade war affecting 50% of US imports from China and 40% of Chinese imports from the US. Although not directly involved in this bilateral trade war, the EU is inevitably affected if only because the US is its largest export market for goods and services, and China is its largest supplier of goods.

André Sapir
Europe could revolutionise the energy market by using euros to pay for oil. “Petro” dollars emerged as a result of the historic 1974 agreement between the US and Saudi Arabia. Fast forward to now and Europe is the largest importer, and OPEC coordinates closely with Russia – Europe’s largest supplier.

Elina Ribakova

Poor education systems in the region are unable to offer the young labour force the knowledge and skills required by a modern economy. Most southern and eastern Mediterranean countries struggle with remaining pockets of illiteracy and early drop-out from the school system. The low level of female labour-market participation [...] is another factor that decreases potential growth.

Marek Dabrowski
The Trump presidency is likely to go down as a watershed for international economic relations. Even if its nationalist stance is eventually reversed, there will be no return to the 20th century order. We’ve got to build on the more flexible, messier forms of global governance that have emerged to find out which are effective and for what purpose.

Jean Pisani-Ferry

“Europe Averts a Trade War With Trump. But Can It Trust Him?”

“The question is, how much do you give in to a bully?” asked Maria Demertzis, the deputy director of Bruegel, an economic research institute in Brussels. “This could just be perfunctory, and if it just stops extra tariffs, that’s fine. But you can’t really depend on Trump. His understanding of global trade is bilateral balance, which is as good as arbitrary, given global supply chains. And it depends on what side of the bed he wakes up on tomorrow.”
NEVEN MIMICA
EUROPEAN COMMISSIONER FOR
INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND
DEVELOPMENT SPEAKING AT THE EU-LAC
ECONOMIC FORUM ON 6 JUNE 2018.

Exports of Goods in 2017

- EU intra
- EU extra
- US
- China

Trillion Euros

EXPORT OF GOODS IN 2017
The EU has made some progress towards integrating its financial system through banking union and developing a true capital markets union. But progress in terms of hard numbers is limited at best and the national financial systems remain fragmented. It is an open debate to what extent the already agreed measures will eventually transform the landscape, and to what extent new and additional measures will be needed.

Bruegel scholars have considered the progress made, analysed the structural impediments that may bias debt versus equity financing, and assessed the development of a new landscape of financial regulatory agencies in the EU. They have also been looking at which issues will define finance in the future and how we can best prepare for them, such as the new possibilities opened by fintech.
A European Anti-Money Laundering Authority

Financial Literacy

Sustainable Investing on the Rise

On the Rise
Sustainable investment is gaining momentum with €21 trillion of global sustainable assets under management. Europe is leading the way with a 53 per cent share. Pioneer investors adopt an active approach based on fundamental analysis of companies’ environmental, social and governance (ESG) factors and deep engagement with these companies on material ESG factors.

Dirk Schoenmaker
In a digital era, access to financial services will be more and more immediate. At the same time, weakened states will not be able to provide welfare nets as generous as those in the past. European citizens will therefore need to plan for their financial well-being a lot more by themselves. Financial education is one of the tools that we must provide with great urgency.

Maria Demertzis

FINANCIAL LITERACY IN THE EUROPEAN UNION, 2014
DANIELLE NOUY

Discussing her five years in charge of the single supervisory mechanism at a Bruegel event on 20 November 2018.
Anti money laundering

The reform should go much further than what is currently discussed, experts at the Brussels-based think-tank Bruegel said in a report on Thursday.

“It is evident that recent anti-money laundering supervision in the EU has been embarrassingly ineffective, and that deep reform thus needs to be considered,” Joshua Kirschenbaum and Nicolas Veron wrote in the Bruegel paper titled: “A better European Union architecture to fight money laundering.”

Nicolas Véron
Digital transformations and the way they empower innovation and technology are crucial elements to understanding the future of growth and development. Our research programme has been steadily expanding over the past few years in this respect. In 2018 we focused on Europe’s industrial policy, and more specifically on the implications of digitisation.

More generally we continued to research R&D concentration issues in European superstar firms and the role that they play in generating innovation and growth. Last, we also examined the adaptability of the automotive industry in the EU and how prepared it is to meet the challenges that are coming, notably electrification.

On digital matters, Bruegel scholars studied issues of transparency and accountability that can help ensure consumer trust. Also, taxing digital services is a widely discussed question and one that is vital to establishing and protecting the level playing field among all firms. Last, as GDPR has come into effect, we have investigated implementation issues that remain, and the perspective that GDPR will/may become a global standard.
COMPETITION LAW VS INDUSTRIAL POLICIES

How competition law can assuage industrial policy concerns is high on the EU agenda. Should non-competition issues (e.g. privacy, employment) be included? Should industrial growth be part of merger review? Such questions go to the heart of competition policy, one traditionally focused on allocative efficiencies. How to foster economic autonomy, attract investment yet avoid protectionism is the challenge.

Mathew Heim

EU blocks planned Siemens-Alstom rail deal in landmark decision

Mathew Heim, visiting research fellow at the Bruegel think-tank, said: “It is not the function of European competition law to promote European champions.

“Rather Europe needs a coherent plan to foster critical European sectors that can flourish in the context of global competition, but without resorting to protectionism.”

FINANCIAL TIMES
MARGRETHE VESTAGER
EUROPEAN COMMISSIONER FOR COMPETITION, GIVING A KEYNOTE SPEECH AT THE BRUEGEL ANNUAL DINNER ON 4 SEPTEMBER 2018.
AI AND THE FUTURE OF JOBS

Automation incorporates many efficiency gains, but it also raises concerns on the quantity and quality of jobs as well as on market competition. My research tries to evaluate the validity and magnitude of these concerns and provides policy recommendations on how we can maximise the associated benefits in an inclusive way.

Georgios Petropoulos
China’s ambition to no longer be known for “made in China” but “innovated in China” is already showing results: The rise of Chinese companies in the scoreboard of largest R&D spenders in the world is impressive. They may not yet be having many big tech-intensive companies at the frontier, they may not yet be overturning the strong US position at the frontier, but they are with many firms making fast inroads, particularly in digital sectors. For corporate EU this means that, next to facing the challenge of the US at the corporate R&D frontier, they now have to face the challenge of rising corporate China.

Reinhilde Veugelers
Bruegel climate research focused on how to ‘mainstream’ climate policy and ensure that targets set are not in conflict with other objectives – primarily growth and reducing inequality.

Our scholars reviewed the increasingly overlapping institutions that oversee the process of meeting targets, and brought together a set of (external) experts to reflect on concrete steps that can help push the policy agenda. They also reflected on the geo-economic and political implications of the energy transition to renewables, in particular the distributional effects of decarbonisation.
DISTRIBUTIONAL EFFECTS OF CLIMATE POLICIES

TRANSPORT AND DECARBONISATION
Transport is becoming the major stumbling block in the EU decarbonisation pathway. This is indeed the only sector in which CO2 emissions have strongly increased in recent decades. Stronger policies are needed to clean up the sector, also in view of improving air quality in cities, which remains a key public health challenge in Europe.

Simone Tagliapietra

**FINANCIAL TIMES**

Brussels offers billions to spark electric car battery investment

Simone Tagliapietra, a research fellow at the Bruegel think-tank, said: “The EU carmakers have refused to see the change occurring in electric vehicles for a long time and are only now starting to go in this direction.”
Keeping global warming below two degrees Celsius will require very intrusive climate policies. Such policies will have significant distributional consequences. Hence distributional aspects must be already considered in the design of climate policies in order to make them politically sustainable.

Georg Zachmann
A BALANCED GOVERNANCE

Transparency independent
Bruegel’s distinctive nature rests on a balanced partnership between private and public stakeholders.

Our member base is composed of EU member states, international corporations and independent institutions.

With membership fees constituting 83% of the annual budget, but no single member contributing more than 3.7%, Bruegel succeeds in collaborating with a wide array of partners while protecting its principal assets: independence, professional integrity and objectivity.

Bruegel is committed to the highest levels of transparency, both at the level of the institution and at the level of individual scholars. This level of disclosure represents a new standard in public transparency for think-tanks.
Ratifies the appointment of the board and of the director and deputy director.

Approves the budget and the accounts.

Participates in the design of the Research Programme through multilateral consultations, and bilateral exchanges involving each member individually.

State members | Corporate members | Institutional members

Elect 3 members each

BOARD
Bruegel's general administrative body
Meets three times every year

11 members (6 elected, 5 appointed)
Chair: Jean-Claude Trichet

Works with the management team to guide the organisation, holds director accountable.

Approves the budget and the annual research programme, which is prepared on the basis of a wide consultation of members.

Approves new members and senior staff

SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL
Bruegel's advisory body
Meets every year

8 members
Chair: Svend E. Hougaard Jensen

Advises Bruegel's board and management.

Assesses the scientific quality of Bruegel's output with a yearly report.

Attends Bruegel's board meetings through presence of the chair.

EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT
Bruegel's executive body

Director: Guntram B. Wolff
Deputy director: Maria Demertzis

Executive management • Research supervision • Editorial responsibility
Preparation of research programme & board meeting
Members are at the core of our organisational framework. They engage in a partnership, an exchange of ideas, and a commitment to Bruegel’s mission.

Their representation at the board level, their contribution to the research agenda, their interactions with scholars, and their participation in events guarantee that Bruegel remains both accountable and relevant.

Members are committed to Bruegel’s standards of transparency and integrity. They recognise Bruegel’s independence and agree to refrain from seeking to influence the course of Bruegel’s research work or to obstruct publication. We are grateful to each of them for their support.
**STATE MEMBERS**

- Austria
- Belgium
- Cyprus
- Denmark
- Finland
- France
- Germany
- Hungary
- Ireland
- Italy
- Luxembourg
- Malta
- Poland
- Slovakia
- Spain
- Sweden
- The Netherlands
- United Kingdom

**INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERS**

- Banca d’Italia
- Bank of England
- Banque Centrale du Luxembourg
- Banque de France
- Danmarks Nationalbank
- De Nederlandsche Bank
- EBRD
- European Investment Bank
- Fundación Instituto de Crédito
- Groupe Caisse des Dépôts
- National Bank of Romania
- Sveriges Riksbank
- TELA - The Finnish Pension Alliance
- The National Bank of Poland

**CORPORATE MEMBERS**

- Amazon
- Balyasny Asset Management
- Banco Santander
- BBVA
- BlackRock
- Crédit Agricole
- Deutsche Börse
- Enel
- EDP
- Eni
- Facebook
- Google
- HSBC
- Huawei
- Iberdrola
- IIES (Toyota Group)
- ING
- MasterCard
- McKinsey
- Microsoft
- Moody’s
- Morgan Stanley
- Norinchukin Bank
- Novartis
- Pfizer
- Sanofi
- Schneider Electric
- Schroders
- Shell
- Société Générale
- Standard & Poor’s
- Standard Life Aberdeen
- Uber
- UniCredit Group
- Vodafone

*As of May 2019*
The board’s composition reflects the diversity of Bruegel’s stakeholders. An 11-person group, it is made up of high-ranking individuals from government, industry, academia and civil society, each of them acting in a personal capacity.

A diversity of backgrounds, nationalities and genders is guaranteed through a combination of elections and appointments. It reflects Bruegel’s nature as a public good. The board of Bruegel was confirmed by members in March 2017 and comprises:

**Jean-Claude Trichet (Chairperson)**  
Former President, European Central Bank

**Thies Büttner**  
Full Professor of Public Finance and Economics, Friedrich-Alexander University at Erlangen-Nurnberg

**Karolina Ekholm**  
Professor of Economics

**José Manuel González-Páramo**  
Executive Board member of BBVA

**Luigi Paganetto**  
Vicechairman of Cassa depositi e Prestiti

**Rachel Lomax**  
Former Deputy Governor of the Bank of England and a member of the Monetary Policy Committee

**Isabelle Mateos y Lago**  
Managing Director, BlackRock Investment Institute

**Simone Mori**  
Group Head of European Affairs, Enel

**Elena Pisonero**  
President, Hispasat

**Pawel Samecki**  
Member of the Management Board of Narodowy Bank Polski

**Tuomas Saarenheimo**  
Permanent Under-Secretary at the Ministry of Finance, Finland

We also want to thank Vincenzo la Via and Hans Vlijberg for having served in the board until 2018.
The scientific council consists of internationally recognised economists appointed by the board for a three-year mandate. It advises Bruegel’s board, director and deputy director, and assesses the scientific quality of Bruegel’s output. The scientific council chair attends board meetings.

Svend E. Hougaard Jensen (Chairperson)
Professor of Economics and Director of the Pension Research Centre (PeRCent) at Copenhagen Business School

Elena Carletti
Professor of Finance at Bocconi University

Meredith Crowley
Professor of Economics at Cambridge University

Fernando Fernandez
Full Professor of International and Financial Economics at IE Business School

Naika Foroutan
Vice-Director of the Berlin Institute on Integration and Migration Research

Justus Haucap
Director, Düsseldorf Institute for Competition Economics at Heinrich-Heine-University of Düsseldorf

Thomas Philippon
Professor of Finance at New York University, Stern School of Business

Lazlo Varro
Chief Economist, International Energy Agency
MANAGEMENT TEAM

GUNTRAM B. WOLFF
Director
Guntram is responsible for Bruegel’s overall executive management, for the preparation of the board meetings, the preparation of Bruegel’s strategy, the research strategy and the hiring of staff. He exercises editorial oversight and quality control. Guntram was deputy director of Bruegel before being appointed director in 2013. Before this, he worked on euro-area governance at the European Commission and fiscal policy at the Bundesbank. He holds a PhD in economics from the University of Bonn and has published in leading academic journals.

MARIA DEMERTZIS
Deputy director
Maria has been the deputy director of Bruegel since 2016. The deputy director assists the director in leading the organisation, with a specific focus on shaping the research programme and ensuring its execution is of the highest quality. She has previously worked at the European Commission and the research department of the Dutch Central Bank. She has also held academic positions at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government in the USA and the University of Strathclyde in the UK, from where she holds a PhD in economics.

MATT DANN
Secretary general
Matt supports the director in his executive tasks. He oversees the management of Bruegel’s non-research operations, takes care of finances and manages institutional relations with Bruegel’s members. Matt is an experienced media professional who has worked in both television and the financial sector. He is a graduate of Keele University, UK, and has an MBA from the Solvay Business School of the Université Libre de Bruxelles.

PAOLA MANIGA
Head of development
Paola and her team are responsible for raising new income streams from public and private sources. She was previously secretary general of the European Association of Sugar Traders (ASSUC) and trade policy adviser for the associations representing international trade in flowers and EU imports of processed agriculture and fishery products. Paola holds two master’s degrees, in local economic development from the London School of Economics and in management from Bocconi University. She is also co-founder of The Brussels Binder, an online database of female policy experts, and supported by several Brussels think-tanks.

GIUSEPPE PORCARO
Head of communications and events
Giuseppe and his team are responsible for press and online outreach and the organisation of Bruegel’s events. He has extensive experience of organisational management, communication and policy development at European and international level. He was secretary general of the European Youth Forum between 2009 and 2014 and previously worked at the World Bank in Kosovo and Paris. Giuseppe holds a master’s degree in international relations and a PhD in geography of development from the University of Naples L’Orientale. He also contributes to research on topics related to European narratives and the impact of technology on democracy and political communication.
INDEPENDENT FUNDING

Understanding who funds think-tanks, and to what end, is an important part of maintaining the reputation our sector has for independence.

Bruegel’s management is required by the board and members to pursue balanced funding, with goals stipulating the proportion of funding that should be received from membership and non-membership sources.

Bruegel is therefore committed to building a diverse set of stakeholders, to help buttress independence and allow the budget to cover the funding cycle. Diversity of funding also allows Bruegel to operate during downturns in the business/funding cycle. Our funding structure is based on:

Core funding
83% of funding comes from the membership programme:
- EU member states
- Corporations
- Central banks and autonomous institutions

Non-core funding
- Grants from European institutions for specific multi-annual research projects or papers.
- Grants from private organisations, such as private foundations and top research institutes.
This also gives Bruegel an opportunity to interact with policymaking institutions and makes advocacy for Bruegel’s work more effective.

Bruegel adopts a flexible approach to co-operation. Joint activities with partners focus on intellectual dialogue through visiting fellowships, joint publications and policy debates with relevant decision-makers and practitioners.

No member contributes more than a small percentage of the annual budget (1-4 % depending on budget years), which protects independence further. An arm’s-length relationship with members is also guaranteed by Bruegel's statutes and bylaws, which clearly define the role that members play in the organisation.

The financial statements fully detail our funding streams for both core and non-core funding.

Bruegel’s development is planned to be organic, with a gradual expansion of the membership programme and the sustainable growth of other funding streams in harmony with Bruegel’s core values. A large part of making Bruegel's financial future sustainable also rests in constant innovation in operations: finding ways to cut costs whilst expanding output.

Bruegel maintains reserves of just over 2.5m. These reserves make six months’ operating costs available and help maintain financial stability. Bruegel's cash flows are carefully managed and Bruegel has never borrowed to finance operations or to make capital investments.
## Balance Sheet 2018 - 2017

### Fixed Assets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2017</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fixed Assets</td>
<td>278,394.52</td>
<td>385,983.92</td>
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<tr>
<td>Furniture and Office Equipment</td>
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<td>IT Development</td>
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<td>New Office Space Development</td>
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### Current Assets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Current Assets</td>
<td>388,561.89</td>
<td>270,950.21</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trades Receivables</td>
<td>388,349.30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Debtors</td>
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<tr>
<td>Funded Project Receivables</td>
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### Cash and Financial Assets

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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash and Financial Assets</td>
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<td>2,598,335.01</td>
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### Deferrals and Accruals

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<td>Deferrals and Accruals</td>
<td>187,808.86</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deferred Charges</td>
<td>156,485.66</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accrued Income</td>
<td>31,323.20</td>
<td>8,250.00</td>
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### Total Assets

<table>
<thead>
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<th>2017</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Assets</td>
<td>3,563,338.90</td>
<td>3,412,518.44</td>
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### Current Liabilities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Current Liabilities</td>
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<td>Trade Payables</td>
<td>331,046.34</td>
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<td>Remuneration and Social Security Payables</td>
<td>292,703.99</td>
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<td>Funded Project Creditors</td>
<td>39,792.88</td>
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<td>Prepaid Income</td>
<td>357,812.00</td>
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<td>VAT Payable</td>
<td>26,824.30</td>
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<td>Accrued Charges</td>
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<td>Provisions</td>
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### Net Assets

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<thead>
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<th>2017</th>
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<tr>
<td>Net Assets</td>
<td>2,515,159.39</td>
<td>2,389,689.57</td>
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<tr>
<td>Surplus/Loss of the Year</td>
<td>125,469.82</td>
<td>50,412.46</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accumulated Reserves</td>
<td>2,389,689.57</td>
<td>2,339,277.11</td>
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</table>

### Total Liabilities and Net Assets

<table>
<thead>
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<th></th>
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<th>2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</td>
<td>3,563,338.90</td>
<td>3,412,518.44</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### INCOME STATEMENT 2018 - 2017

#### REVENUE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Revenue Type</th>
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<th>2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Subscriptions - State Members</strong></td>
<td>$2,158,195.00</td>
<td>$2,136,059.66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Subscriptions - Corporate Members</strong></td>
<td>$1,800,003.33</td>
<td>$1,683,335.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Subscriptions - Institutional Members</strong></td>
<td>$458,335.00</td>
<td>$425,000.00</td>
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</table>

[see Complete Funding Annex for breakdown]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Revenue Type</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Other Revenues</strong></td>
<td>$801,854.80</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Honoraria</strong></td>
<td>$12,833.12</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Project-Based Funding</strong></td>
<td>$397,627.80</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Foundation Grants</strong></td>
<td>$391,035.25</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Financial Income (Gross)</strong></td>
<td>$101.10</td>
<td>$260.92</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Other Income</strong></td>
<td>$257.53</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>GTTS 2018</strong></td>
<td>$111,839.51</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Total Revenue**      | **$5,330,227.64** | **$4,939,108.01** |

#### EXPENSES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expense Type</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Wages and Compensation</strong></td>
<td><strong>-$3,631,834.36</strong></td>
<td>-$3,579,852.04</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expense Type</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Operating Expenses</strong></td>
<td><strong>-$1,213,905.59</strong></td>
<td><strong>-$1,136,265.90</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Staff Travel Costs</strong></td>
<td>-$128,270.77</td>
<td>-$122,449.87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>External Research Costs</strong></td>
<td>-$14,246.67</td>
<td>-$37,351.95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Documentation Costs</strong></td>
<td>-$173,275.64</td>
<td>-$175,187.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Outreach Related Costs</strong></td>
<td>-$330,506.74</td>
<td>-$227,744.79</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Office Rent and Running Costs</strong></td>
<td>-$488,385.25</td>
<td>-$485,277.73</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>External Professional Services</strong></td>
<td>-$74,090.51</td>
<td>-$83,299.34</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Financial Charges</strong></td>
<td>-$5,130.01</td>
<td>-$4,955.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>GTTS 2018</strong></td>
<td>-$127,538.96</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Expenses**      | **-$5,128,545.34** | **-$4,863,695.55** |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Surplus / Deficit</strong></td>
<td><strong>$201,682.30</strong></td>
<td>$75,412.46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Extraordinary Items</strong></td>
<td><strong>-$76,212.48</strong></td>
<td><strong>-$25,000.00</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Final Result</strong></td>
<td><strong>$125,469.82</strong></td>
<td>$50,412.46</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

* 2017 item: includes reversal of provision of 108k from 2012
** 2017 item: unpaid corporate subscription from 2016 [member left in 2017]
** 2018 item: write-down of income owed by research partner now in bankruptcy
# Revenue

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subscriptions - State Members</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Category 1</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cyprus</td>
<td>33,203.00</td>
<td>33,203.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Luxembourg</td>
<td>33,203.00</td>
<td>33,203.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Malta</td>
<td>33,203.00</td>
<td>33,203.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Estonia</td>
<td>33,203.00</td>
<td>11,067.66</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Category 2</strong></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Ireland</td>
<td>66,406.00</td>
<td>66,406.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Slovakia</td>
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<td>66,406.00</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Category 3</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Austria</td>
<td>99,609.00</td>
<td>99,609.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Denmark</td>
<td>99,609.00</td>
<td>99,609.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Finland</td>
<td>99,609.00</td>
<td>99,609.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hungary</td>
<td>99,609.00</td>
<td>99,609.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sweden</td>
<td>99,609.00</td>
<td>99,609.00</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Category 4</strong></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Belgium</td>
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<tr>
<td>Netherlands</td>
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<td>Poland</td>
<td>132,812.00</td>
<td>132,812.00</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Category 5</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>France</td>
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<td>Germany</td>
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<td>Italy</td>
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<td>Spain</td>
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<tr>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>199,218.00</td>
<td>199,218.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subscriptions - Corporate Members</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amazon</td>
<td>50,000.00</td>
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<td>Iies (Toyota Group)</td>
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## Subscriptions - Institutional Members

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<td>Banque de France</td>
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## Projects & Grants Annex

### Income for Research Activities from Public Organisations

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<th>Project Description</th>
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### Income for Research Activities from Private Organisations

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*As ICTSD is in bankruptcy, the value of this income line has been written down to zero.

### Honoraria, For Conferences, Written Pieces etc.

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STATUTORY AUDITOR’S REPORT TO THE GENERAL MEETING OF MEMBERS OF THE ASSOCIATION BRUEGEL FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2018

In the context of the statutory audit of the annual accounts of the international association Bruegel (the association), we hereby present our statutory auditor’s report. It includes our report on the annual accounts as well as the other legal and regulatory requirements. This forms an integrated whole and is indivisible.

We have been appointed as statutory auditor by the general meeting of members of 8 May 2018, following the proposal by the board of directors. Our statutory auditor’s mandate will expire on the date of the general meeting of members which will deliberate on the annual accounts closed on 31 December 2020. We have performed the statutory audit of the annual accounts of the association Bruegel for 7 consecutive years.

Report on the annual accounts

Unqualified opinion

We have audited the annual accounts of the association, which comprise the balance sheet as at 31 December 2018, the profit and loss account for the year then ended and the notes to the annual accounts, characterised by a balance sheet total of € 3,563,339 and a profit and loss account showing a positive result for the year of € 125,469.

In our opinion, the annual accounts give a true and fair view of the association’s net equity and financial position as at 31 December 2018, as well as of its results for the year then ended, in accordance with the financial reporting framework applicable in Belgium.

Basis for unqualified opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISAs) as applicable in Belgium. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the 'Statutory auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the annual accounts' section in this report. We have complied with all the ethical requirements that are relevant to the audit of annual accounts in Belgium, including those concerning independence.

We have obtained from the board of directors and the officials of the Association the explanations and information necessary for performing our audit.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Responsibilities of the board of directors for the preparation of the annual accounts

The board of directors is responsible for the preparation of annual accounts that give a true and fair view in accordance with the financial reporting framework applicable in Belgium, and for such internal control as the board of directors determines is necessary to enable the preparation of annual accounts that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.
In preparing the annual accounts, the board of directors is responsible for assessing the association’s ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the board of directors either intends to liquidate the association or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

**Statutory auditor’s responsibilities for the audit of the annual accounts**

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the annual accounts as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue a statutory auditor’s report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these annual accounts.

When performing our audit, we comply with the legal, regulatory and standards framework that applies to the audit of the statutory accounts in Belgium.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the annual accounts, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control;
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Association’s internal control;
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the board of directors;
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the board of directors’ use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Association’s ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our statutory auditor’s report to the related disclosures in the annual accounts or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our statutory auditor’s report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Association to cease to continue as a going concern;
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the annual accounts and whether the annual accounts represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with the board of directors regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identified during our audit.
Other legal and regulatory requirements

Responsibilities of the board of directors
The board of directors is responsible for the compliance with the legal and regulatory requirements regarding bookkeeping, as well as for compliance with the Law of 27 June 1921 on non-profit associations, foundations, European political parties and European political foundations, and with the Association’s by-laws.

Responsibilities of the statutory auditor
In the context of our mandate and in accordance with the Belgian standard (Revised in 2018) which is complementary to the International Standards on Auditing (ISAs) as applicable in Belgium, it is our responsibility to verify, in all material aspects, the compliance with certain provisions of the Law of 27 June 1921 on non-profit associations, foundations, European political parties and European political foundations and with the by-laws, as well as to report on these elements.

Statement related to independence
Our audit firm and our network did not provide services which are incompatible with the statutory audit of annual accounts, and our audit firm remained independent of the association throughout the course of our mandate.

Other statements
- Without prejudice to certain formal aspects of minor importance, the accounting records are maintained in accordance with the legal and regulatory requirements applicable in Belgium.
- There are no transactions undertaken or decisions taken in breach of the by-laws or of the Law of 27 June 1921 on non-profit associations, foundations, European political parties and European political foundations that we have to report to you.

3 May 2019

The Statutory Auditor

VRC Registered Auditors
SC s.f.d. SCRL
Represented by Geert Keunen
Registered Auditor
Bank liquidation in the European Union: clarification needed, Silvia Merler, Policy Contribution, 10 January

Analysis of development in EU capital flows in the global context, Grégory Claeys, Maria Demertzis, Konstantinos Efstatthiou, Inês Goncalves Raposo, Pia Hüttl and Alexander Lehmann, External Publication, 15 January

Reconciling risk sharing with market discipline: A constructive approach to euro area reform, Agnès Bénassy-Quéré, Markus K. Brunnermeier, Henrik Enderlein, Emmanuel Farhi, Marcel Fratzscher, Clemens Fuest, Pierre-Olivier Gourinchas, Philippe Martin, Jean Pisani-Ferry, Hélène Rey, Isabel Schnabel, Nicolas Véron, Beatrice Weder Di Mauro and Jeromin Zettelmeyer, External Publication, 17 January

Risk reduction through Europe’s distressed debt market, Alexander Lehmann, Policy Contribution, 18 January;

People on the move: migration and mobility in the European Union, Uuriintuya Batsaikhan, Zsolt Darvas and Inês Goncalves Raposo, Blueprint, 22 January

Will macroprudential policy counteract monetary policy’s effects on financial stability?, Itai Agur and Maria Demertzis, Working Paper, 24 January

Tales from a crisis: diverging narratives of the euro area, Henrik Müller, Giuseppe Porcaro and Gerret von Nordheim, Policy Contribution, 15 February

The Western Balkans on the road to the European Union, Marek Dabrowski and Yana Myachenkova, Policy Contribution, 22 February

Note on the interactions between payment systems and monetary policy, Francesco Papadia, External Publication, 26 February

Why is it so hard to reach the EU’s ‘poverty’ target?, Zsolt Darvas, Policy Contribution, 19 January

Rethinking the European Union’s post-Brexit budget priorities, Zsolt Darvas and Guntram B. Wolff, Policy Brief, 19 March

The European Globalisation Adjustment Fund: Easing the pain from trade?, Grégory Claeys and André Sapir, Policy Contribution, 22 March

Capital Markets Union and the Fintech Opportunity, Maria Demertzis, Silvia Merler and Guntram B. Wolff, External Publication, 26 March

Europe in a new world order, Maria Demertzis, Guntram B. Wolff and André Sapir, External Publication, 26 March

Cash outflows in crisis scenarios: do liquidity requirements and reporting obligations give the SRB sufficient time to react? Alexander Lehmann, External Publication, 28 March

Addressing Europe’s failure to clean up the transport sector, Simone Tagliapietra and Georg Zachmann, Policy Brief, 9 April

Are European firms falling behind in the global corporate research race?, Reinhilde Veugelers, Policy Contribution, 12 April

Collaborative Economy: Market Design and Basic Regulatory Principles, Georgios Petropoulos, External Publication, 16 April

Developing the EU long term climate strategy, Georg Zachmann and Andrei Marcu, Book/Special Report, 18 April

The impact of industrial robots on EU employment and wages: A local labour market approach, Francesco Chiacchio, Georgios Petropoulos and David Pichler, Working Paper, 18 April

State contingent debt as insurance for euro-area sovereigns, Maria Demertzis and Stavros Zenios, Working Paper, 26 April

Making a reality of Europe’s Capital Markets Union, André Sapir, Nicolas Véron and Guntram B. Wolff, Policy Contribution, 27 April

Financial literacy and inclusive growth in the European Union, Uuriintuya Batsaikhan and Maria Demertzis, Policy Contribution, 9 May

How big is China’s digital economy?, Alicia García-Herrero and Jianwei Xu, Working paper, 17 May

Central banking in turbulent times, Francesco Papadia and Tuomas Valimäki, External Publication, 22 May

EU funds for migration, asylum and integration policies, Francesco Chiacchio, Zsolt Darvas, Konstantinos Efstatthiou, Inês Goncalves Raposo and Guntram B. Wolff, External Publication, 23 May

The changing fortunes of central banking, Philipp Hartmann, Haizhou Huang and Dirk Schoenmaker, External Publication, 29 May

European and Chinese trade competition in third markets: the case of Latin America, Alicia García-Herrero, Thibault Marbach and Jianwei Xu, Working paper, 7 June
Is the European Semester effective and useful?, Konstantinos Efstathiou and Guntram B. Wolff, Policy Contribution, 13 June


Cryptocurrencies and monetary policy, Grégory Claeys, Maria Demertzis and Konstantinos Efstathiou, Policy Contribution, 28 June

The impact of artificial intelligence on employment, Georgios Petropoulos, External Publication, 31 July

Export and patent specialization in low carbon technologies, Robert Kalcik and Georg Zachmann, External Publication, 7 August

The macroeconomic implications of healthcare, Zsolt Darvas, Nicolas Moës, Yana Myachenkova and David Pichler, Policy Contribution, 23 August

International trade under attack: what strategy for Europe?, Sébastien Jean, Philippe Martin and André Sapir, Policy Contribution, 28 August

Should we care about central bank profits?, Francesco Chiacchio, Grégory Claeys and Francesco Papadia, Policy Contribution, 30 August

Energy in Africa: Challenges and Opportunities, Manfred Hafner, Simone Tagliapietra and Lucia de Strasser, External Publication, 5 September

High public debt in euro-area countries: comparing Belgium and Italy, André Sapir, Policy Contribution, 6 September

The economic potential and risks of crypto assets: is a regulatory framework needed?, Maria Demertzis and Guntram B. Wolff, Policy Contribution, 6 September

Electrification in sub-Saharan Africa: The role of international institutions, Simone Tagliapietra, External Publication, 11 September

The EU’s Multiannual Financial Framework and some implications for CESEE countries, Zsolt Darvas and Guntram B. Wolff, External Publication, 12 September

One size does not fit all: European integration by differentiation, Maria Demertzis, Jean Pisani-Ferry, André Sapir, Thomas Wieser and Guntram B. Wolff, Policy Brief, 19 September

Excess liquidity and bank lending risks in the euro area, Zsolt Darvas and David Pichler, Policy Contribution, 26 September

LNG and Nord Stream 2 in the context of uncertain gas import demand from the EU, Georg Zachmann, External Publication, 27 September

The impact of global decarbonisation policies and technological improvements on oil and gas producing countries in the Middle East and North Africa, Simone Tagliapietra, External Publication, 3 October

The EU response to US trade tariffs, Maria Demertzis and Gustav Fredriksson, External Publication, 11 October

The Euro-Mediterranean energy relationship: a fresh perspective, Simone Tagliapietra, Policy Brief, 16 October

Should we give up on global governance?, Jean Pisani-Ferry, Policy Contribution, 23 October

European fiscal rules require a major overhaul, Zsolt Darvas, Philippe Martin and Xavier Ragot, Policy Contribution, 24 October

A better European Union architecture to fight money laundering, Joshua Kirschenbaum and Nicolas Véron, Policy Contribution, 25 October

Reconciling contradictory forces: financial inclusion of refugees and know-your-customer regulations, Zsolt Darvas, Uuriintuya Batsaikhan and Inês Goncalves Raposo, External Publication, 30 October

Euro area reform: An anatomy of the debate, Jean Pisani-Ferry, External Publication, 5 November

Learning for decarbonisation, Alexander Roth and Georg Zachmann, External Publication, 8 November

The distributional effects of climate policies, Grégory Claeys, Gustav Fredriksson and Georg Zachmann, Blueprint, 14 November

Examining interrelation between global and national income inequalities, Marek Dabrowski, External Publication, 15 November

A monetary policy framework for the European Central Bank to deal with uncertainty, Grégory Claeys, Maria Demertzis and Jan Mazza, Policy Contribution, 22 November

How to provide liquidity to banks after resolution in Europe’s banking union, Maria Demertzis, Inês Goncalves Raposo, Pia Hüttl and Guntram B. Wolff, External Publication, 22 November

Assessing the European Union’s North Africa trade agreements, Uri Dadush and Yana Myachenkova, Policy Contribution, 26 November

Sustainable investing: How to do it, Dirk Schoenmaker, Policy Contribution, 28 November

A new strategy for EU-Turkey energy cooperation, Simone Tagliapietra, External Publication, 5 December. Paper supported by Mercator Stiftung.

A new statistical system for the European Union, Andreas Georgiou, Essay, 12 December

Forecast errors and monetary policy normalisation in the euro area, Zsolt Darvas, Policy Contribution, 13 December

The euro as an international currency, Konstantinos Efstathiou and Francesco Papadia, Policy Contribution, 18 December
BLOGS

China Fails to Woo U.S. With Financial Sector Opening, Alicia García-Herrero, 5 January

Abenomics, five years in, Silvia Merler, 8 January

Does the European Parliament miss an opportunity to reform after Brexit?, Robert Kalick, Nicolas Moës and Guntram B. Wolff, 10 January

A few good (wo)men – on the representation of women in economics, Inês Gonçalves Raposo, 15 January

Bad News and Good News for the Single Resolution Board, Nicolas Véron, 15 January

No Financial Meltdown, Alexander Roth and Georg Zachmann, 15 January

Climate change adds to risks for banks, but EU lending proposals will do more harm than good, Arnoud Boot and Dirk Schoenmaker

It is safer to rely on what we know, rather than speculate on what may happen, Marek Dabrowski, 16 January

Macroprudential policy: The Maginot line of financial stability, Francesco Papadia, 17 January

The financial side of the productivity slowdown, Silvia Merler, 22 January

The clock is ticking: Ukraine’s last chance to prevent Nord Stream 2, Georg Zachmann, 24 January

The ever-rising labour shortages in Europe, Zsolt Darvas and Inês Gonçalves Raposo, 25 January

Rebuilding macroeconomics: Initial reflections on a major theory project, Konstantinos Efstatiou, 29 January

EU budget: Expectations vs reality, Yana Myachenkova, 29 January

Your job description, Mr. Centeno, Guntram B. Wolff, 30 January

The International Economic Consequences of Mr. Trump, Jean Pisani-Ferry, 31 January

Economies of States, Economies of Cities, Silvia Merler, 5 February

Difficulties and opportunities in realocating European Parliament seats after Brexit, Guntram B. Wolff, 5 February

What is the financial balance of EU membership for central Europe?, Zsolt Darvas, 6 February

US tax reform and implications for the German coalition agreement, Guntram B. Wolff, 7 February

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