

# **FIIA**

FINNISH INSTITUTE  
OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

ENGLISH

# **FIIA Activities in 2017**

## Finnish Institute of International Affairs

### Introduction

The Finnish Institute of International Affairs (FIIA) is an independent research institute which produces high-level research to support political decision-making and public debate both nationally and internationally.

The Institute receives its core funding from the Finnish Parliament and sets its research agenda independently. Its fellows publish in internationally recognized publications as well as in the Institute's own publication series.

FIIA was established in its present form in 2006, having been maintained up to that point since the 1960s by a private foundation.

The Director of the Institute is Adjunct Professor **Teija Tiilikainen**. FIIA currently employs about 50 people, over half of whom are researchers.

### Research

The Institute has three Research Programmes.

***The European Union Research Programme*** focuses on the EU's global and regional role as well as the internal dynamics of the EU. The main research themes are the EU's external relations, general political directions and institutional development.

***The EU's Eastern Neighbourhood and Russia Research Programme*** studies the EU's eastern neighbourhood with a special focus on Russia's domestic, foreign and security policy. In particular, the programme concentrates on political developments in the region and the process of Eurasian integration. It also studies international relations in the EU's eastern neighbourhood and the relationship between the region and the EU.

***The Global Security Research Programme*** approaches global security challenges within the framework of broad security. The programme seeks to understand the global trajectories of security that have significance for the European and Finnish security environments. The issues covered include the prospects for global governance systems, changes in the world's great-power structure, significant factors in functional and regional security and insecurity, the role of the transatlantic relationship in world politics, and the different dimensions of the European security policy. Asia and the Arctic are also on the programme's agenda.

### Outreach

FIIA has a broad and active outreach programme intended for decision-makers, researchers, civil servants,

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NGOs, the media and the general public. Anyone can subscribe to FIIA's publications and express their interest in receiving invitations to FIIA events through the Institute's website.

FIIA publishes Reports, Working Papers, Briefing Papers, Comments and Finnish Foreign Policy Papers. Furthermore, the FIIA Analysis series was launched in early 2014 and it became a peer-reviewed publication in 2017. All publications can be downloaded from the FIIA website. In addition to these series, FIIA publishes a quarterly journal in Finnish, *The Finnish Journal of Foreign Affairs* (Ulkopolitiikka-lehti).

FIIA's events are tailored to specific target audiences and they attract both national and international speakers and participants. Events vary from closed roundtables to large public seminars.

The Institute houses a public library specialising in international relations. Its collections are at the disposal of the general public.

FIIA also maintains Eilen, the Archive and Chronology of Finnish Foreign Policy which is available at [www.eilen.fi](http://www.eilen.fi). In addition to the chronology, the archive includes speeches and key documents of Finnish foreign policy, and was opened in March 2012.

## Summary of Activities

### Research Focus Areas

The year 2017 was the first year of the Institute's three-year research programme period 2017–2019. In international politics, 2017 was an eventful and unpredictable year which will be remembered for changes in great-power relations.

With Donald Trump as the new president of the United States, US allies in Europe and Asia became concerned about their relationship with the US and about the future of multilateral international cooperation. Great-power relations were also affected by Russian interference in the US presidential election as well as North Korea's nuclear tests and the country's rapprochement with Russia and China. The EU's values and ability to function were challenged internally. However, public opinion on integration turned more hopeful due to key elections in the area. Common plans were expected from Germany and France to outline the Union's development in the future.

The *European Union Research Programme* studied the EU's external relations, the EU's major developments and the EU policies of the member states. The research programme focused especially on the future of European integration and United Kingdom's withdrawal

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from the European Union. Moreover, attention was paid to the EU's relations with Russia and Turkey, a theme which was also examined separately from the EU. The EU's energy policy as well as the Union's security and defence policy became joint themes with the Global Security research programme.

The focus of the *EU's Eastern Neighbourhood and Russia Research Programme* moved from Russia's foreign and security policy and Russia's actions in Ukraine towards the research on domestic factors behind the foreign policy, such as the Russian political system, civil society's political role and public opinion. Additional focus was placed on the internal political and economic developments in Russia and the eastern neighbourhood countries, especially Ukraine and Belarus.

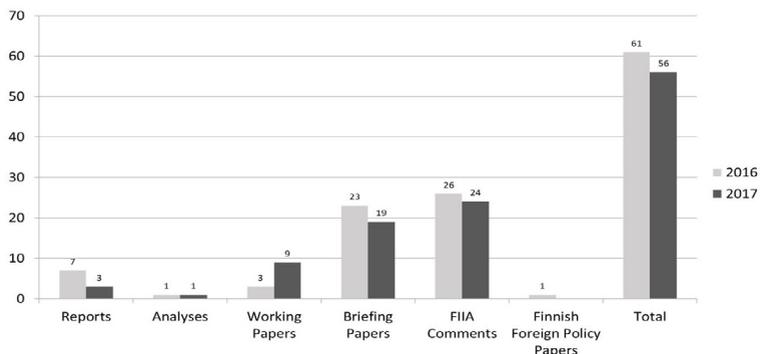
Research activity in the *Global Security Research Programme* focused on global power structures and their changes. The geographical emphasis of the programme was on the US and Asia, focusing on China's foreign policy and global role. Moreover, research on North Korea was carried out with external project funding.

### Publications

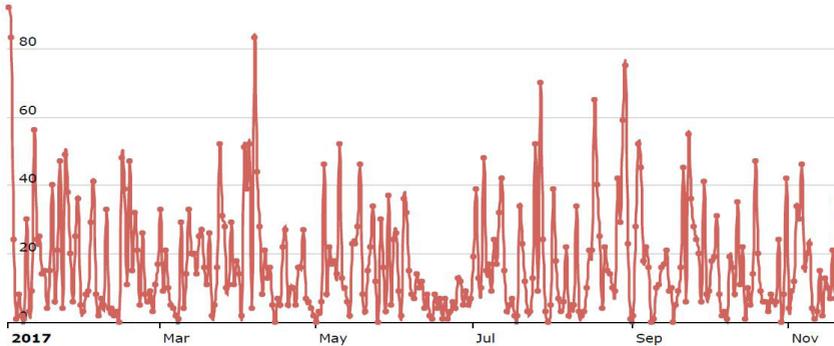
The Institute released a total of 56 publications in 2017, a decrease of 8.9 percent from the year before. Approximately 22,337 publication downloads were recorded from the website. 57 percent of downloads came from Finland.

FIIA's researchers also published widely outside the Institute, including books and PhD theses, policy papers by other research institutes as well as

Number of Publications in 2016–2017



## Appearances in the media in 2017



academic articles in peer-reviewed scholarly journals or scientific books. The Institute's researchers published a total of 20 peer-reviewed articles in 2017. Altogether, over 120 external publications were published.

The quarterly journal of the Institute, *Ulkopolitiikka* (Finnish Journal of Foreign Affairs) maintained a circulation of ca. 2,500. In its 2017 issues, the Journal dealt with themes such as federalism, the power of the rich, as well as China's economic rise and its implications.

### Media Appearances

FIIA's media visibility was on a high level throughout the year. The researchers commented frequently on issues such as Donald Trump as the president of the United States and his meeting with Sauli Niinistö, president of Finland, terrorism, North Korean nuclear tests, the

Catalan independence bid, the French presidential election, Russian President Putin's visit to Finland and the forthcoming presidential election in Russia.

In 2017, over 6,100 hits for the Institute were recorded in online, television, radio and print media. The vast majority of the hits resulted from interviews with FIIA researchers.

### Seminar Activity

2017 was a busy year for FIIA's seminar activity with 80 organised seminars and roundtable discussions. The seminars attracted 3,329 participants altogether.

### Parliamentary Hearings

FIIA researchers provided 17 written and/or oral statements to parliamentary committees in 2017.

# FIIA Publication Series 2017

## Selected FIIA Reports

*The North Korean Conundrum:  
International responses and future  
challenges*

Elina Sinkkonen (ed.)

*Managing Unpredictability:  
Transatlantic relations in the Trump  
era*

Mika Aaltola & Bart Gaens (eds.)

*The EU's choice: Perspectives on deepening and  
differentiation*

Tuomas Iso-Markku, Juha Jokela, Kristi Raik, Teija  
Tiilikainen & Eeva Innola (eds.)

## Selected FIIA Working Papers

*After the election of no alternatives:  
The Kremlin's domestic political  
challenges from 2018 onwards*

Jussi Lassila

*Spirituality as a political instrument:  
The Church, the Kremlin, and the  
creation of the 'Russian World'*

Veera Laine & Iris Saarelainen

*America's Dilemma: Dealing with  
Multiple Adversaries Simultaneously*

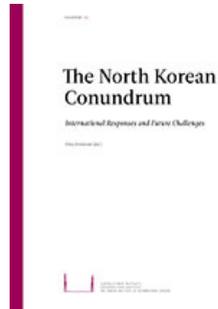
Mark N. Katz

## FIIA Analyses

*'Mourning for America': Donald  
Trump's Climate Change Policy*

Michael Mehling & Antto Vihma

## FIIA Reports



## FIIA Working Papers



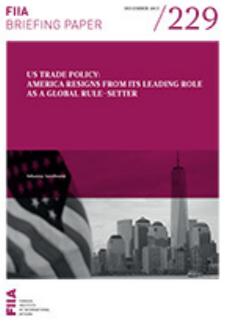
## FIIA Analyses



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## Selected FIIA Briefing Papers

### FIIA Briefing Papers



*US Trade Policy: America Resigns from its Leading Role as a Global Rule-setter*  
Johanna Jacobsson

*What non-alignment? Finland's security and defence policy stems from partnerships*  
Matti Pesu

*Endgame in Venezuela: Dictatorship or Re-Democratization?*  
Mikael Wigell

*Belarus's Disequilibrium: Mounting Challenges and Reluctance to Change*  
Arkady Moshes & Ryhor Nizhnikau

*The EU-Japan partnership: Stepping stone for a stronger presence in Asia?*  
Bart Gaens

*A More Powerful European Council: Old and new trends*  
Juha Jokela



## Selected FIIA Comments

*The Communist Party convenes in China: What is in the tea leaves?*  
Jyrki Kallio

*The Catalanian independence project: The frustration of the near-majority*  
Teemu Tammikko

*Trust in multilateral fora needs to be restored*  
Katja Creutz & Olli Ruohomäki

*Astana's Syria Conference*  
Wolfgang Mühlberger

### FIIA Comments





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[www.fiia.fi/en/introduction/join](http://www.fiia.fi/en/introduction/join)

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