



CONIAS RISK INTELLIGENCE

CONIAS Newsletter January 2019

Dear Reader,

With our 1st Newsletter in 2019, we wish you a happy new year and look forward to enhanced cooperation and new partnerships! As usual, it aims at giving you a brief overview of what kept us thinking over the holidays and our work of the past weeks. If you don't want to wait another month for new insights from our CONIAS experts or have comments and suggestions, please engage with us directly via [Twitter](#) and [Linkedin](#).

Hinweis: Ab sofort gibt es den monatlichen CONIAS Newsletter auch in deutscher Sprache. Eine Anmeldung hierfür ist ab sofort möglich und benötigt nur einen [Klick](#).

For now, we hope you enjoy the read and look forward to further exchanges!

Your CONIAS-Team

CONIAS Blog: What made us think last month

[Votes that Matter](#)

[What to expect from the 2019 Election Cycle?](#)



2018 had been a *difficult year* for liberal institutions and trade freedom. Relations between the United States and the European Union reached a breaking point over tariffs, protectionist politics, and unilateral decisions by US President Trump to withdraw from the Paris Climate Accord and the Nuclear Agreement with Iran. Moreover, the threat of a trade war between the United States and China still looms large as well as the risk of a military escalation between NATO and Russia in Eastern Europe. What will the future hold for 2019? Among key events to watch, *elections* are always a safe bet – even more so, when they don't necessarily meet the condition of being fair and free. While research has shown that especially transitioning states are prone to conflict and violence, [Magdalena Kirchner](#) examines in her latest [BlogPost](#), whether also for developed democracies, 2019's election cycle could bring instability and increase the level of local political risk for international businesses and supply chain management.

CONIAS Insight: What you might have missed



China's economic and political rise is and remains the talk of the town – albeit currently rather involuntarily due to the increased tensions with the United States and the threat of a trade war. Beijing appears to see itself less as a revisionist power vis-a-vis Washington, yet claims to return to its traditional place as the Middle Kingdom, among others through the enormous "Belt and Road Initiative". How will this change China's relations with the outside world? President Xi Jinping not only declared himself an advocate for free trade in the past year, he is also following in the footsteps of Mao Zedong to leave his mark on Chinese domestic politics. Will he be powerful enough to enforce unpopular reforms such as inefficient state-owned enterprises, market access or financial market regulation?

Author: [Bertram Lang](#)

Publication Date: July 2018

Just before 2018 came to a close, CONIAS and [Michael Bauer International GmbH](#) formalized their [partnership](#) in order to broaden existing sales networks and to expand the use of our data solutions into new business sectors. We are delighted to join MBI's exclusive network of authorized partners and look forward to productive cooperation in the future!

On December 11/12, [Dr. Magdalena Kirchner](#) participated in the 17th Meeting of the Trilateral Strategy Group of the [German Marshall Fund of the United States](#) (in cooperation with the [Turkish Industry and Business Association](#) (TUSIAD) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Sweden) in Istanbul and gave a talk on the Future of Europe's Security Architecture. In an interview with the [Arab Weekly](#) on January 6, she discussed the implications of Donald Trump's decision to withdraw US-Troops from Syria for Turkey and its security. In his [CONIAS Risk Report](#) on [China](#), author Bertram Lang also addressed the issue of "shrinking spaces" for civil society organizations - our reading recommendation for this month is his recently published article "[Civil Society Work in China: Trade-Offs and Opportunities for European NGOs](#)" in [GIGA Focus Asia](#).

While we are as always curious to find out what awaits us next month, we would like to also draw your attention to a very special event in February 2019. On February 21, our CEO [Dr. Nicolas Schwank](#) and other high-level officials and experts will discuss strategies to manage and adjust to political risks and instability at the conference "[Eine Welt in Unordnung – Strategien zur Absicherung Politischer Risiken](#)" in Bonn, hosted by the [Funk Foundation](#).

In our daily business, we combine hands-on consulting on political landscapes with the steady and research-based improvement of our [methods](#). We think that learning from [partners](#) and customers alike and growing with challenges is essential for start-ups like us, seeking to stay agile and customer-oriented. Curiosity and open-mindedness also drives the way we develop our products - the digital solutions from CONIAS help clients to evaluate and monitor suppliers in real-time. Our [maps and charts](#) support our partners in presentations for target audiences, customers and co-workers alike. Last but certainly not least, we provide deeper insights and understandings through background [reports](#), webinars and [workshops](#).

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CONIAS Risk Intelligence GmbH Newsletter

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