

THE POWER OF EUROPE

AFFIRMING THE EU AS A GLOBAL ACTOR

International Conference

Egmont Palace, Brussels, 7-8 May 2009

“The European Union is inevitably a global player”, the 2003 *European Security Strategy* (ESS) says, hence “Europe should be ready to share in the responsibility for global security and in building a better world”. But is it really ready? As Egon Bahr remarked: “It could be a heavy-weight force, but Europe as a whole is still reluctant to accept its role as a global player”. If the EU, in spite of the ambitions expressed in the ESS and elsewhere, is not yet the global actor that it could be, it is not because its strategy is not valid, nor because it lacks the resources, but primarily because the implementation of its strategy has been half-hearted. “Despite all that has been achieved, implementation of the ESS remains work in progress”, concluded the December 2008 *Report on the Implementation of the European Security Strategy*.

This international conference will address the power of the EU as a global actor. Looking at the instruments and means available to the EU in the various dimensions of foreign policy, the aim is to assess the potential of the EU as a power and to identify how the Union could exercise its power more effectively than it does today.

Four panels will bring together experts from across the globe:

- Panel 1 will assess relations between the EU and other powers in an increasingly multipolar world: How is the EU perceived? Does the Union make effective use of its dialogues and partnerships to further its foreign policy objectives?
- Panel 2 will look at the instruments of “traditional” power: How effective is the EU as a military actor and what should be its level of ambition?
- Panel 3 will take a broader perspective and, in the spirit of the holistic approach of the EU, deal with so-called “soft” power: Economic weight and political influence. How integrated are the various strands of EU foreign policy? Do they contribute to the Union’s overall objectives?

- Panel 4 will address the EU's "grand strategy" for this multipolar world: What can and should be its ambition as a global actor? Is the EU a distinctive type of power? How can the EU effectively combine "hard" and "soft" power?

The conference is co-organized by Egmont – The Royal Institute for International Relations, the College of Europe (Bruges), the Bertelsmann Foundation – Brussels Office and the Centre for Comparative Regional Integration Studies of the United Nations University (UNU/CRIS, Bruges). Aimed at practitioners, academics and students alike, it seeks to contribute to the ongoing development of strategic debate and, indeed, a strategic culture in Europe.

The conference language will be English.

Programme – Day 1

14.30–15.00 *Registration*

15.00–15.30 **Welcome & Introduction**

- Prof. Dr. Sven BISCOP, Egmont
- Prof. Dr. Dieter MAHNCKE, College of Europe

15.30–17.00 **Panel 1: A World of Great Power Relations**

Chair: Stefani WEISS, Director, Brussels Office, Bertelsmann Stiftung

- Prof. Dr. Luk VAN LANGENHOVE, UNU/CRIS
- Richard GOWAN, New York University
- Prof. Dr. MEN Jing, College of Europe
- Prof. Dr. Martin HOLLAND, University of Canterbury, New Zealand

17.00–17.30 *Coffee*

17.30–19.00 **Panel 2: The EU's "Traditional" Power**

Chair : Dr. Philippe DE LOMBAERDE, UNU-CRIS

- Daniel KEOHANE, EU Institute for Security Studies, Paris
- Gen. (ret.) Rainer SCHUWIRTH, former Chief of Staff, SHAPE and former Director General, EUMS
- Prof. Dr. Geoffrey EDWARDS, University of Cambridge
- Prof. Dr. Zaki LAIDI, Sciences Po, Paris

Programme – Day 2

09.30–11.00 **Panel 3: The EU’s “Soft” Power**

Chair: Prof. Dr. Sieglinde GSTÖHL, College of Europe

- Dr. Richard YOUNGS, FRIDE, Madrid
- Fernanda FARIA, European Centre for Development Policy Management, Brussels Office
- Prof. Dr. Jan ORBIE, Ghent University
- Sami ANDOURA, Notre Europe, Paris

11.00–11.30 *Coffee*

11.30–13.00 **Panel 4: The EU’s “Grand Strategy”**

Chair: Dr. Jan Joel ANDERSSON, SIIA, Stockholm

- Dr. Giovanni GREVI, EU Institute for Security Studies, Paris
- Prof. Dr. Stephan KEUKELEIRE, Catholic University of Leuven
- Dr. Stefano SILVESTRI, Istituto Affari Internazionali, Rome
- Prof. Dr. Richard WHITMAN, University of Bath

13.00–13.15 **Conclusion**

- Joachim FRITZ-VANNAHME, Director, Europe’s Future, Bertelsmann Stiftung
- Prof. Dr. Sven BISCOP, Egmont