

**European Ideas Network - Summer University
18 - 20 September 2008**

**EIN POLICY ROUNDTABLE ON
FOREIGN POLICY CHALLENGES**

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Background

The key goals of foreign policy remain constant, namely to provide peace, stability and security as solid foundations for freedom and prosperity. Globalisation, climate and demographic change present Europe with new challenges for foreign policy. Global **interdependence** will increase as the world experiences resource constraints for water, energy and food. The rapid growth of China and India will shift the

geopolitical

landscape - along with the development of nations like Brazil, Indonesia and South Africa. To cope with all of this, the EU needs to define a

strategic

response based on "global Europe", rooted in a strong

co-operation

between EU member states.

The postwar era has seen other global **shifts**, particularly the rise of Japan and South Korea. But neither nation was large enough to power worldwide growth or to influence so many policy areas. China and India possess sufficient

demo

graphic

weight and

dynamism

to alter the 21st-century global balance of power. The closest parallel to their emergence is perhaps 19th-century America: a continental economy with a young, driven workforce that took the lead in the high

technologies

of that era. The balance of power in many technologies is moving from West to East - although what may hold India back from developing its full potential are bureaucratic red tape, rigid labour laws, and an inability to build infrastructure fast enough. But it is still likely that in the years ahead,

China

and

India

will impact on workforces, industries, companies, and markets - affecting foreign policy and international relations.

Yet sixty years after the Marshall Plan was established - and the Truman Doctrine plus the

Berlin airlift helped to halt Soviet Communist expansion in Europe - there is still no closer global partnership than that between the USA and EU. Europe's "**soft power**"; and America's "

hard power

"; approaches should match each other - although the EU could do with developing harder uses of soft power. Above all, policy-makers on both sides of the Atlantic should attempt to 'define the mission together', rather than let the 'mission define the coalition' - replacing transatlantic posturing with the

pragmatic

use of power.

The 2008 GMF 'Transatlantic Trends' survey highlighted similar **concerns** for EU and US citizens, namely:

terrorism

, energy dependence and the global economy. Europeans also noted

climate change

whilst Americans focused on the Middle East. Europeans were more willing than Americans to provide security assistance for neighbouring democracies like

Ukraine

and

Georgia

and to increase support for democratic forces inside Russia, but less happy to restrict cooperation with

Russia

in international organisations. 57 per cent of Europeans agreed that NATO is essential to their country's security, an increase of four percentage points since 2007. This suggests a halt to the trend of declining support in Germany and Poland for the first year since 2002 - and brought French support for

NATO

back to the level of 2002.

During the EIN **summer university** in Warsaw in 2007, the policy roundtable felt the expanding challenges can be grouped into three categories: the public sphere, institutional changes and the further **modernisation** of the military.

The centre right will have to face the likelihood of military losses and economic costs in the defence of Europe's freedom. As part of the global effort to win hearts and minds, the West will not only have to compete with Islamism but also with

authoritarian capitalism

in China and Russia - particularly given the race to grab control of natural resources in the developing world.

The EU and US should draw up a common security strategy, with NATO likely to need to go "out of area"; to back strategic partnerships in the Pacific, whilst also being more active in the Middle East. The evaluation of the 2003 **European Security Strategy**, with a report due out at the EU Council in December 2008, is reassessing Europe's foreign and security policy and the means to achieve it. One urgent necessity is the creation of an

energy security

policy - including a

mutual solidarity

clause and closer cooperation with the Gulf Cooperation Council. EU member states must also

modernise

and adapt military forces so as to fight terror whilst rebuilding failed and failing states.

Discussions in Paris in March 2008, at the EIN **seminar** with the French think-tank Fondapol and the Robert Schuman Foundation, focussed on the

transatlantic partnership

and the longer term objective of establishing a Western Union, with the EU focusing on Russia and Africa and the US looking after Asia and the Middle East. In June 2008, the working group held a further EIN

seminar

in Madrid with the Spanish think-tank FAES to examine EU-US relations and consider

coherent

strategies towards China and Russia.

Five possible areas to explore in more depth at this year's summer university in Fiuggi are:

? What role will and should the USA play in providing security and defence for the European Union?

? How can the EU develop a more secure zone of peace and stability in the eastern Balkans?

? Should Europe take an active role in tackling the potential nuclear threat posed by Iran and North Korea?

? Can the implementation and purpose of the European Security Strategy be improved?

? Do the EU and member states have a proactive vision towards dealing with a rising Asia?