



Conference European Foreign Policy

ASSESSING EU'S ROLE IN THE WORLD

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Abstract

This paper aims at appraising the European Union's role in the promotion of peace in the framework of its endeavours in building its political and military influence on the international stage as an increasingly independent political and strategic actor. After highlighting the main politico-diplomatic and institutional developments which led to the establishment of military capabilities designed to enable the organization to respond to crisis management situations, the paper engages in the ongoing academic debate about whether the continued implementation of a Common Security and Defence Policy tends to undermine the traditional civilian/normative *ethos* underlying the Union's foreign policy action. It concludes that the notion of a 'Model Power Europe' carries with it the potential to help overcoming the perceived inconsistency between the Union's two self-imposed roles: that of a promoter of the universal validity of fundamental values and principles of behavior and that of a 'peace-builder in the world'. Rather than mutually exclusive, both roles can be seen as mutually supportive while concurring to the enhancement of the Union's ability to 'civilianize' contemporary international relations.