



Conference European Foreign Policy ASSESSING EU'S ROLE IN THE WORLD

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Abstract

This paper evaluates the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) of the EU from three crucial angles: its strategic objective of avoiding new dividing lines, the instrument of conditionality and the impact on its relations with Russia. By focusing on these three underresearched aspects, the paper equally puts forward an agenda for further research. First, the paper analyses the EU's role as a reluctant democracy promotor in its Eastern neighbourhood. It is argued that ENP implies a strategic shift from creating stability by *extending* the EU towards *exporting* stability. The hypothesis is tested that the latter strategy is based on weaker and more ambiguous forms of political *conditionality* than the process of enlargement. Secondly the paper assesses European Neighbourhood Policy in the light of one of its founding *objectives*: to avoid new dividing lines in wider Europe. ENP was created inter alia to mitigate the negative, unintended impact of enlargement on its direct neighbours. To what extent does the current ENP agenda actually reflect this goal? Finally the paper sheds light on how ENP, as the European Union's regional policy, interacts with the regional policy of the Russian Federation. An aspect that has little been studied is how the regional policies of both European giants, the EU and Russia, affect each other and how they impact on EU-Russia relations. Are both policies compatible, complementary or obstructing each other?