

The EU as a Global Actor

*From the Inside Out: The Internal Development of
the European Union and its Future Role in an Interdependent World*

International Conference,
Berlin, July 7th - 10th, 2011





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(International Conference, Berlin, July 7th - 10th, 2011)

"The EU as a Global Actor" is an international conference held by the Institute for Cultural Diplomacy in cooperation with other leading organisations. The aim of the conference is to consider the political, economic, and cultural development of the European Union, both as a regional organisation and as a key player in global affairs. The issues raised during the conference will be discussed from a range of interdisciplinary perspectives, which will enable the generation of best practice guidelines and policy recommendations for stakeholders in the field. The forthcoming conference has the title "From the Inside Out: The Internal Development of the European Union and its Future Role in an Interdependent World". It aims to explore the challenges and opportunities facing the EU with regards to internal reform and growth, whilst also reflecting on the roles and responsibilities the organisation faces has on the global stage.

Through a series of panel discussions, lectures, and debates, conference speakers will examine the issues that are currently defining the internal development of the EU. At the political level, discussions will concentrate on EU decision-making and the possible expansion of the EU, with a particular focus on Turkey and the Balkans. In the area of economics, speakers will explore the medium and long-term prospects of the Eurozone, the future of Europe's economies, and the recovery of the region from the global financial crisis. These two focal points will be considered alongside cultural issues, in particular the importance of immigration and integration to the future of the EU and the need for greater understanding between cultural groups. Politicians from different EU countries will outline their countries' positions on the issues outlined above, highlighting areas of agreement and areas where greater cooperation is needed.

Debate and discussion on the internal development of the EU will be balanced with analysis of the future role and responsibilities of the EU internationally. Consideration will be given to both the practice and the priorities of EU foreign policy. In terms of practice, the application of cultural diplomacy and soft power as tools in international relations will be considered in detail. Academic stakeholders and politicians will then explore EU foreign policy on climate change, peacekeeping and humanitarian intervention, and global economics. Particular focus will be placed on the growing influence of global players in Asia and Latin America and the need for Europe to move towards a knowledge-based economy. Key historical relationships will be analyzed, new strategic partnerships considered, and experts will offer their views on what the EU can and should do on the international stage in the future.

The aim of the conference is to support inter-disciplinary discussion and analysis of the issues outlined



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above between key stakeholders in culture, politics, diplomacy, civil society, and other related fields. The program will generate key policy recommendations for policy makers and stakeholders, whilst also providing a forum for individuals to expand their personal and professional networks.

Conference Locations

Based in Berlin, the conference, will be hosted at a number of important political, historic, and cultural locations across the city. The conference will be covered by journalists from the „Berlin Calendar“.

The “Berlin Calendar” is co-hosted by NPR and the ICD.

Conference Speakers

Speakers during the Conference will include leading figures and experts from international politics, academia, diplomacy, the private sector, and civil society from across the world. These speakers will include a number of individuals from the ICD Advisory Board.

Sustainable Network

Conference participants will become part of a growing international network of people from across the world of diverse interests and backgrounds who share a commitment to intercultural exchange. Participants will be able to remain in touch with each other through the ICD Networks.

Conference Participants

The conference is open to applications from young professionals, students and scholars, governmental and diplomatic officials, civil society practitioners, private sector representatives, journalists, and other interested stakeholders from across the world.

Certificate of Attendance

All participants will be awarded an official certificate of attendance upon completion of the program, which provides details about the speakers and topics at the conference. Each certificate will be signed by members of the ICD's Advisory Board.

Participant Papers

The Institute for Cultural Diplomacy encourages research and progressive thought on the fields of culture, globalization, and international relations. As such, the ICD welcomes participants of the Symposium to submit relevant papers addressing topics within these fields particular to their interests and passions. Participants can submit papers written in the past for other purposes or ongoing research, or written specifically for the conference. Groups of students are also allowed to submit collaborative pieces of work.



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Conference Agenda

"Europe as a Global Actor" will focus in particular on the following issues:

The European Project: Enlargement, Integration, and Reform

Though its origins date back almost six decades, the modern form of the European Union began to take shape after the fall of the Berlin Wall, an event that profoundly shook the global political system and paved the way for a larger, more integrated alliance. Although the European Union is more and more accepted as a necessary project, many issues force the members to rethink the nature, targets and future of the institution. The integrated alliance is challenged by the economic crisis, refugees from Northern Africa and the difficulty to shape a common foreign policy. The very nature of the European Union ensures that all significant changes must meet with the approval of all member states. This requirement may prove to be either its savior or its downfall, as the EU continues to grow.

- The Expansion of the European Union: Where, and When?**

(Focus: Turkey, the Balkans, Northern Africa, EU principles)

- The Future of European Integration and Migration**

(Focus: Schengen, policy making, legal issues, EU budget, culture, the Lisbon Treaty)

- Democratic Deficit: Myth or Reality?**

(Focus: The European Parliament, The European Commission, EU elections, National Governments and the EU)

- The Euro and the Eurozone: Stability or Fragility?**

(Focus: Greece, Portugal, Germany, Euro-bonds, the IMF, Ireland)

- The Future of Europe's Economies**

(Focus: The service industry, information technology, manufacturing, economic interdependence)

- The Challenges Ahead for Europe and the European Union**

(Focus: Religious extremism, far-right political parties, EU policy making, immigration)

- The European Public Sphere: is Europeanization taking place?**

(Focus: communication, media's role in building "the European identity", national vs. EU interest, role of Russia)

Europe's Role as an International Political Player

The enactment into force of the Lisbon treaty in December 2009 gave the European Union, in theoretical terms, a stronger platform on which to base a common foreign policy. The region has long had a profound influence in international relations on account of its strong economies, historical ties to other parts of the world and, more recently, the normative power of the EU. Of fundamental importance to the future role of Europe in global politics is therefore how it balances traditional interests, and influence, with the need to apply a common foreign policy that places global public goods above national





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interests.

- **The Foreign Policy Innovations of the Lisbon Treaty**

(Focus: EU decision-making, the External Action Service, the High Representative)

- **Europe's Approach to Political Instability in Northern Africa and the Middle East**

(Focus: The EU and NATO, political relations, humanitarian aid, democracy promotion)

- **The Challenges and Opportunities Ahead for the Transatlantic Relationship**

(Focus: NATO, Afghanistan and Central Asia, climate change, military intervention, UN reform)

- **Europe's Responsibility in Preventing and Responding to Climate Change**

(Focus: Carbon offsetting, renewable energy, international regulation, pollution control)

- **Europe as Global Peacekeeper**

(Focus: Aid, peacekeeping, humanitarian intervention, the Capability of NATO and the UN)

- **Strengthening the Global Economy and Supporting Developing Countries**

(Focus: Free trade areas, the World Bank and the IMF, aid vs. trade, international investment)

The Influence of Culture on Europe's Foreign Policy and the Development of the EU

Whilst Cultural Diplomacy was practiced widely by the US and the Soviet Union during the Cold War, and has a tradition in Europe that stretches back to the 19th century, the process of globalization and the importance of global public goods has placed a greater emphasis than ever on international relations based on dialogue, understanding, and trust. The emerging concept of national brands closely linked to the practice of cultural diplomacy and the application of soft power, offers both political and economic benefits to states and regions, but is both a complex and changing field.

- **Culture and European Integration**

(Focus: European cultural capitals, immigration and integration, Islam in Europe, European history)

- **The Application of Cultural Diplomacy in EU Foreign Policy**

(Focus: The External Action Service, national cultural institutions, academic exchange, innovation in cultural exchange)

- **The Role of Soft and Normative Power in European Foreign Policy**

(Focus: Hard, smart, and soft power; national branding; human rights; democracy promotion)

- **Nation Branding and the Benefits of a Positive International Image**

(Focus: History and development of nation branding, tourism, investment, soft power)



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Institute for Cultural Diplomacy (ICD)

Kurfürstendamm 207-208 - D-10719 Berlin, Phone: +49 (0)30 2360-7680, Fax: +49 (0)30 2360-76811

E-mail: cde@culturaldiplomacy.org, Website: www.culturaldiplomacy.org