

## Europe in the World : Power and Norms

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### Introduction

The EU's is connected with the rest of the world to unprecedented levels, but the world is less and less European. Therefore the EU's ambitious global agenda is confronted with a fundamental dilemma : other global actors do not necessarily share Europe's standards but the Union lacks effective instruments of power to make these actors follow Europe's suit. How can China be made to accept Europe's environmental agenda without normative synergy and political or economic leverage ? How can Europe promote a very demanding agenda on environment if its competitors do not share it ? Will oil exporting countries such as Russia with their contrasting political agendas exploit our energy dependence and refuse to accept some common norms on trade and investment suggested by the Energy Charter ? Are our military rules of engagement suitable for new challenges such as the one in Afghanistan ? In the EU's neighbourhood many people share European values and the Union's policy of conditionality has kept the dissenters in line. This combination of normative synergy and power leverage has produced wonders in post-communist Central and Eastern Europe in particular. In the early 1990s the region was seen as a potential source of violence and economic chaos that could spread across EU's borders. Today, most countries in the region are prosperous and secure EU members. But in other parts of the world the Union does not enjoy a similar normative appeal and it lacks equally powerful political and economic means of influencing actors' behaviour because the carrot of membership is no more available. How can the EU's global agenda be made more effective under these circumstances ? How can norms best be promoted in a world which is not inclined to share Europe's agenda ? The hypothesis we advance here is that Europe faces more and more geopolitical constraints. At the same time we assume that it is not deprived of influence as a global norm setter in some specific but not negligible sectors (environment, trade, competition etc..). The main objective of this project is to assess the capacity of a normative Europe to cope with these opportunities, challenges and constraints. Both theoretical and practical aspects will be considered. The project will try to conceptualize both power and norms in the context of European foreign policy and it will examine their mutual interaction. It will attempt to map the various normative agendas around the globe and identify evolving patterns of convergence and divergence. It will analyse various manifestations of power politics amongst major actors and examine Europe's possible responses to these politics.

The project is organized by the Centre d'Etudes Européennes de Sciences Po. Professors Laidi (Sciences Po) and Zielonka (Oxford) are the academic convenors. Several workshops gathering leading specialists in the field are envisaged, starting on **December 3rd 2007**.

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### First Workshops under consideration (starting December 3rd 2007)

**Civilian power in an uncivilized world** This workshop will try to conceptualize power and norms in theoretical terms. It will also try to understand the interplay between power and norms in Europe's global policy. Are realism and constructivism helpful in explaining this interplay ? Can theories of international regimes help us to comprehend the role of power and norms in Europe's foreign policy ?

### Competitive normative visions

Globalisation is creating more and more interdependence among nations and societies. But this trend does not prevent the rise of new powers who do not always share Europe's normative agenda. These emerging powers are often more interested in promoting their strict national interests and in creating a new balance of power reflecting their raising economic leverage. In other words, globalisation does not eliminate power politics, but it changes its nature with serious implications for Europe's normative

agenda. This session will analyse how countries with different normative visions such as Russia, China and India engage in power politics vis-à-vis Europe.

### **Power and norms in Europe's environmental agenda**

Europe is undoubtedly the leading global norm setter in the world. But if this position gives it a certain edge it also creates some constraints and problems. Actors not adhering to Europe's norms often enjoy economic advantage. This is most visible in the field of environment. This seminar will concentrate on the capacity of Europe to shape the post-Kyoto agenda.

### **Power and norms in Europe's trade agenda**

Europe has traditionally promoted a free trade agenda but since at least ten years it has tried to link it with a highly regulative agenda on some specific issues such as environment, core labour standards and competition rules. The results have not been impressive however, and it looks like Europe is facing a sort of multilateral fatigue. In fact, Europe has already been increasingly relying on bilateral free trade agreements because they gave it more leverage. However, this means following the American way of multilateral "disinvestment" and one wonders whether this would be to Europe's advantage in the long term.

### **Power and norms in Europe's energy agenda**

Energy is one of the most challenging problems for the EU. Studying Europe's energy policy is also ideal for exploring the interaction between norms and power. This session will examine the Energy Charter as an attempt to export European norms in countries reluctant to adopt it such as Russia or Kazakhstan.