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## **Conference Report the European Union as a Security Actor and its Global Role**

**Bucharest, 11th of December 2009**

### **EIR Conference Room**

The conference **The European Union as a Security Actor and its Global Role** was organized by the European Institute of Romania and the Embassy of Sweden in Romania. The event benefited from excellent contributions of high officials from European countries and representatives of the academic milieu.

At the beginning the conference proposed to the participants' topics related to the main geopolitical aspects of the fall of communism in Eastern Europe twenty years ago and its choices after the collapse of the Soviet Union.

Next the debate naturally concentrated on the evolution of various recent policy developments at the European Union level, meant to transform it into a global actor with wider perspectives.

The European Union is developing its ability to project soft power all around the world as we are dealing with an aspect of the security policy making that is not directed against any country. If in the early 90's most of the Western countries were surprised by the rapid evolution of their Eastern counterparts toward democracy and Western organizations and they did not have the necessary tools to help them in the state-building process toward the end of the next decade they, and therefore the European Union, developed a credible soft power, ability that plays an essential role in countries such as the Republic of Moldova.

The recently adopted Treaty of Lisbon will play an important role in developing the soft power attributes of the European Union as it tries to transfer the economic integration into the political field. The newly created institutions will make the decisional process in the

European Union much faster. There are yet a lot of things to be done such as defining the European priorities of foreign policy, and the need to have a strategy that looks further than the first step.

We cannot understand the present or the future unless we take into consideration the aftermath of the Cold War when the early choice of security policy was one of the main instruments of the re-established Central and Eastern European democracies toward building a modern, more democratic state.

Many if not all of these democracies are currently members of the European Union and NATO and for them this membership quality is essential in ensuring the much needed security.

One clear example is that of Hungary, a country which after 1989 balanced between neutrality and the search of a “Big Brother” able to ensure its security before choosing in the end to join NATO.

Romania had a similar security dilemma after the disappearance of the Warsaw Pact with five main options: neutrality, a preferential relation with Russia, a Balkan Pact for Collective Defence, a security pact with the Visegrad Group and finally NATO membership.

As these dilemmas are a thing of the past we have to focus on the present and on the future and the Lisbon Treaty offers the tools needed to restructure and reorganize the future of the Common Foreign and Security Policy in order to have a strong foreign and strategic identity.

As it comes clear that becoming a soft power implies getting increasingly involved into crisis management missions the European Union must make all the necessary efforts in order to strengthen its human and material resources involved into this type of missions. European cooperation is a must if the European Unions wants to improve its skills. Is also necessary a better international cooperation with organizations such as United Nations or the African union.

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