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Call for papers: GARNET Conference "The European Union in International Affairs" (Egmont Palace, Brussels, 24-26 April 2008)



The Institute for European Studies (IES) at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB), the Institut d'Etudes Européennes (IEE) at the Université Libre de Bruxelles (ULB), the UN University Programme for Comparative Regional Integration Studies (UNU-CRIS) and the Egmont - Royal Institute for International Relations invite papers for **the GARNET conference 'The European Union in International Affairs', to be held at the Egmont Palace in Brussels on 24-26 April 2008**. The conference will be the first of what we hope will be a series of conferences on this theme. The second conference is planned for 2010.

The Conference is organised in the framework, and with the support, of 'Global Governance', Regionalisation and Regulation: the Role of the EU' (GARNET, Network of Excellence, 6th EU Framework Programme for Research, 2005-2010). Through the conference, GARNET aims to continue the development of a world-class multi-disciplinary network of researchers, analysts and practitioners with expertise in key areas of global and regional governance with a particular focus on Europe's role. The Conference in particular constitutes one of the core activities of the GARNET jointly executed research project on 'Theoretical issues on the EU, UN multilateralism and global governance'. It is, however, expressly open to participation from non-GARNET members.

The Conference will provide a forum for discussion and exchange of ideas among the growing number of scholars that take an interest in understanding the interface of EU and international politics and law.

Interest in the role and place of the European Union in international affairs has grown in different sections of the scientific community, including foreign policy analysis, the investigation of international institutions, international political economy, international and European law, European studies (including comparative analysis of policy and law in EU member states), policy studies and development studies as well as other fields. The Conference will also attempt to foster exchange between the academic and policy communities, especially through keynote addresses by senior policy-makers and a number of 'policy link' panels featuring a mixture of academics and practitioners. In total, we expect up to 150 conference participants.

To this end, we invite in particular papers that cover one or more of the four conference themes:

1. The EU, the UN and Global Governance: Theories, Institutions, Processes, Actors as a Global Actor, the EU is embedded in an international framework, including multilateral institutions and organisations. Contributions may address such topics as the role of the EU in treaty-based regimes, in international organisations or in more informal institutions such as the G8, and the ways in which these institutions form and influence the EU as an international actor. They may also explore in more detail the processes and actors that shape the EU's role in global governance, including the implementation of the EU's international obligations. In

general, explorations of the institutions, processes, (legal) competences, decisions and actors present in EU-global governance relations are appreciated.

2. The EU in a Globalising World: the Security and Economic Dimensions exploring the distinct, yet related policy fields of security and economics promises to help improve our understanding of the conditions of the EU's role in a globalised world in different policy areas.

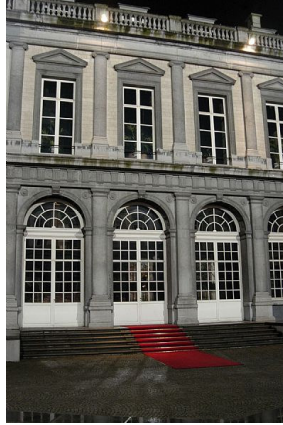
- **Security:** Security considerations include the formulation of EU strategies to deal with different threats as well as developments in the field of European Security and Defence Policy. Relevant security issues include global terrorist activity, conflict-resolution, non-proliferation, security assistance and support for reform and peace-building efforts in various parts of the world, including on the EU's new borders. They in particular cover the nexus between security and development and between security and energy supply.
 - **Economy:** The EU has a very significant role to play in global economic activity and policy. While the European Commission has the leading role in the area of international trade, EU member states remain the prime actors in important other international economic contexts (e.g. World Bank, IMF), which results in a complex political and legal mix of shared EU and Member States' competences.
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3. The Interplay between EU Member States, the EU and International Affairs, the vertical dimension in developing an EU outlook on international law and politics raises various questions. For example, what is the impact of the EU's internal multi-level order on the EU as a foreign policy actor and the formulation of "EU" foreign policy? How can the EU's external activities be monitored and controlled? What role do the various foreign policy strategies of EU member states play (e.g. isolationist, Atlanticist, protectionist, multilateral/internationalist)? What are the driving forces of different strategies and approaches (threat perception, preferences, etc.)? How and to what extent do the activities of individual member states shape or contravene a common EU approach in international affairs? To what extent is the EU bound by international law in its international relations?

4. The EU, Interregionalism and the Challenge to multilateralism, the EU interacts with other world regions and major players. As such, it promotes cooperation within and between different regions as well as with other countries, including under the new EU Neighbourhood Policy. What is the prospect of inter-regional cooperation fostered by the EU both with relevant formal organisations (e.g. APEC/ASEAN, NAFTA, the AU, UNECE, OSCE, MERCOSUR) and more informal groupings.

What are the EU's strategies for dealing with other regions and actors, how efficient and effective are they, and which (legal) instruments are used? To what extent do these strategies challenge broader, global cooperation? What can we learn from these interactions regarding the analyses of EU foreign policy and European integration?

Useful practical information about the GARNET Conference 'The European Union in International Affairs'



- Deadline for abstracts: 25 September 2007
- Notification of acceptance: 20 December 2007
- Submission of full papers: 1 April 2008

Please submit your abstract, of no longer than one page, by email to conference@ies.be or through the conference website at <http://www.ies.be/conference2008>, which will be active by the beginning of July.

Limited travel grants will be available to cover part of the cost of participation of junior researchers from disadvantaged countries. Details will be available on the conference website, which will also contain further relevant information.

We look forward to welcoming you to this GARNET Conference at the Egmont Palace in Brussels from 24-26 April 2008.

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