



ANNUAL HIGH-LEVEL EU DIPLOMACY LECTURE

College of Europe
Collège d'Europe

EU INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
AND DIPLOMACY STUDIES

Summary of the third high-level
EU Diplomacy Lecture

EU International Relations and
Diplomacy Studies

College of Europe, Bruges

27 October 2016

The EU's Common Foreign and Security Policy – 17 years on

Dr Javier SOLANA, President of the ESADE Centre for Global Economy and Geopolitics, Barcelona/Madrid; former EU High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy



Rector Jörg Monar welcomed the audience and introduced the high-level speaker of the third annual “EU Diplomacy Lecture”, Dr. Javier Solana, as a friend of the College of Europe. Dr. Solana is the former President of the Madariaga – College of Europe Foundation which was named after his close relative Salvador de Madariaga, one of the founders of the College of Europe. The Rector also expressed his gratitude that this “EU Diplomacy Lecture” was taking place on the day on which the College celebrated the first ten years of existence of the study programme “EU International Relations and Diplomacy Studies”.

In his lecture, Dr. Javier Solana reflected on the past 17 years of the Common Foreign and Security Policy as well as on its future prospects in light of the emerging global challenges. The first years of the 21st century were marked by events whose consequences still shape today’s world politics. In the aftermath of the 9/11 attacks in 2001, a sense of solidarity emerged among the international community. This insight on the need for coordinated action and cooperation was, however, quickly replaced by disagreement over the Iraq war in 2003, which also split the members of the European Union (EU).



College of Europe
Collège d'Europe



Natolir

Department of EU International Relations and Diplomacy Studies

Dijver 11 BE-8000 Brugge T +32-50-47.72.51 F +32-50-47.72.50

www.coleurope.eu/ird

Besides the invasion of Iraq, tensions between Europe, Russia and the United States rose over the enlargement of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) and missile defence. In this respect, the EU has treated neither Russia nor China as the big powers as which these countries expected to be treated. The year 2008 saw not only



the short Russo-Georgian war but also the outbreak of the financial crisis. In the Middle East, much of the turmoil resulted from long-standing US foreign policy objectives with regard to the regimes in Iraq and Iran. In late 2010 the Arab Spring started, followed by an escalation of events in the Near and Middle East, including the civil wars in Libya and Syria and the rise of the Islamic State/Da'esh. With regard to the oil flows from the Middle East, both the consequences drawn from the 2011 Fukushima nuclear disaster in some European countries and the shale gas revolution in the US had an impact as well. The only case of successful cooperation in the past years, in which the EU also played a role, was the Iran nuclear deal reached in 2015.

Dr. Solana emphasised that today's multipolar world requires global institutions, negotiations and cooperation. In the meantime, however, the EU has become obsessed with its own problems. The EU has been hit by a severe economic and financial crisis and still has to find ways to handle rising Euroscepticism, the inflow of migrants and refugees as well as the Brexit question. These diverse crises make it difficult for the EU to cope with foreign policy issues that it does not perceive as a direct threat. Moreover, the rise of nationalism directly undermines Europe's capacity to address security challenges. Yet terrorist attacks on European soil have highlighted that internal and external security are indeed closely intertwined and to be placed on a continuum.

Although international politics has evolved from a spirit of cooperation to a logic of competition in a rather short period of time, the EU has to deal with both internal and external security. The EU's external security does not primarily require more tanks or weapons but stronger defence cooperation to obtain a certain strategic autonomy. According to opinion polls, a large majority of the population wants more European security. Internal security requires police, satellites, intelligence and – above all – more mutual trust. Last but not least, Europe needs to address the inequalities in its societies. 2017 will be a decisive year marked by a new administration in the US and elections in France,

Germany and the Netherlands. There is room for the EU to act in such a complex world. In order to face the challenges and to be a more efficient external actor, the EU needs to keep working on its internal integration.

The livestreamed lecture by Dr. Javier Solana was followed by a stimulating question and answer session with the audience.



In her concluding words, Professor Sieglinde Gstöhl, Director of Studies of the EU International Relations and Diplomacy Studies programme, thanked the speaker for recalling the turbulent start of the 21st century, for outlining the manifold challenges that the European Union faces today and for pointing to some lessons to be drawn for the future, especially in view of the new EU Global Strategy. She underlined that Dr. Solana's speech clearly showed the need for a specialised study programme such as the MA programme "EU International Relations and Diplomacy Studies" and the need for graduates who are qualified and willing to address the challenges in various positions of responsibility.

Javier SOLANA is President of ESADE Centre for Global Economy and Geopolitics (Barcelona-Madrid). He is Distinguished Fellow in Foreign Policy at the Brookings Institution (Washington), Senior Fellow at the Hertie School of Governance (Berlin), Chairman of the Aspen Institute Spain, Honorary President of the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue (Geneva), and advisor to the Institute of Modern International Relations of Tsinghua University. He is also a member of the board of the International Crisis Group and the European Council on Foreign Relations, as well as visiting professor at the London School of Economics, where he was awarded an honorary degree in 2010. From 1999 to 2009, Dr. Solana was Secretary General of the Council of the European Union and from 1995 to 1999 Secretary General of NATO. Dr. Solana is the former High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy of the European Union. Prior to this, he has held several ministerial positions in the Spanish government, including Minister for Foreign Affairs.

