



PRESS RELEASE

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New CER essay

Preparing for the multipolar world: European foreign and security policy in 2020

By Charles Grant, with Tomas Valasek

The world is becoming increasingly multipolar. But will the global powers divide into two hostile camps, the democracies and the autocracies? Or will all the leading powers support multilateral institutions and rules? Many Europeans believe that the most pressing security challenges, such as climate change, energy security, international terrorism and the development of the poorest countries cannot be tackled without strong multilateral institutions.

Charles Grant and Tomas Valasek argue that a stronger EU can help to ensure that multilateralism prevails over balance-of-power politics. They suggest a series of prescriptions for reinforcing the EU's influence, and set out a plan for a stronger EU defence policy, including much closer ties between the EU and NATO.

The authors argue that the EU should increase its involvement in the Middle East, for example by playing a greater role in the rebuilding of Iraq, taking more Arab states into the European neighbourhood policy, and establishing closer ties with Israel.

They argue that the EU must engage both Russia and China, in order to steer them towards multilateralism. In dealing with Russia, the EU should focus on common interests, such as energy, the integration of Russia into the world financial system, the common neighbourhood, and co-operation on the big strategic questions.

As for China, the authors propose a new strategic partnership, built around protecting the openness of the global trading system, encouraging China to take climate change seriously, working together in Africa, and persuading China to take a bigger role in global governance.

Notes for editors:

1. Charles Grant is director of the CER, and Tomas Valasek is director of foreign policy and defence.
2. This essay can be ordered from the CER website (www.cer.org.uk) or by contacting Kate Meakins at kate@cer.org.uk.
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